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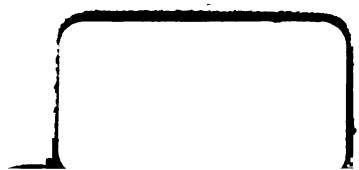
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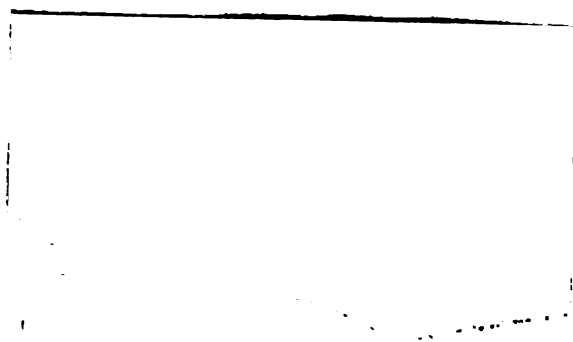
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THE
CHESHIRE SHEAF,

BEING

LOCAL GLEANINGS, HISTORICAL & ANTIQUARIAN,
FROM MANY SCATTERED FIELDS.

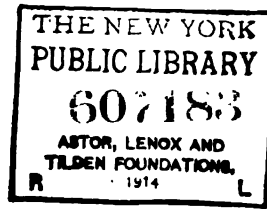


"O, LET ME TEACH YOU HOW TO KNIT AGAIN
THIS SCATTER'D CORN INTO ONE MUTUAL SHEAF!"

REPRINTED, AFTER REVISION AND CORRECTION, FROM THE CHESTER "COURANT."

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1883.



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PREFACE.

We have now arrived at another mile-stone in "THE SHEAF"'s progress,—the end of the SECOND VOLUME,—and may fairly claim a few minutes' pause to take rest and look back.

It was our hope and our intention at the outset, as it has been our earnest and persistent effort ever since, with the aid of an able volunteer staff of Contributors, to produce,—first of all in the pages of the *Chester Courant*, and afterwards in a more enduring and convenient form,—a Collection of short articles of LOCAL historic interest, and of a character to demand and deserve a forward place in a CHESHIRE student's library.

Thus have we, from fortnight to fortnight in "THE CHESHIRE SHEAF," provided a Miscellaneous series of Original Documents, Antiquarian Notes, Queries, and Replies, Historic Papers, Essays, and Scraps relating to CHESHIRE and its NORTH-WELSH Borders; Incidents in the rise and fall of Families and Places, and curious facts of Genealogical Research, that have afforded pleasure and, we hope we may add, instruction to a wide area of Readers.

To those ladies and gentlemen who have so cordially helped us in our labours we tender our sincere thanks; and we trust, during the progress of Volume III., to receive at their hands and those of others a like measure of intelligent support.

A good INDEX, as we have more than once reminded our Readers, is essential to every really good Book. Looked at from this point of view, therefore, we believe most fully that the INDEX to Volume II., which we issue to-day, and which has been generously, and with much judgment and labour, compiled by MR. JOHN HEWITT, one of our oldest and most industrious Contributors, will be accepted by our Subscribers as a genuine boon.

Chester, May, 1883.

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THE CHESHIRE SHEAF,

BEING

LOCAL GLEANINGS, HISTORICAL AND ANTIQUARIAN,
FROM MANY SCATTERED FIELDS.

REPRINTED FROM THE CHESTER "COURANT."

VOLUME II.

JANUARY 7, 1880.

Editorial Address.

Our present Number marks a noteworthy epoch in the history of THE CHESHIRE SHEAF. Not only do we find ourselves engaged on the opening Number for the New Year, but we also enter to-day - Editor, Contributors, and Readers—upon a new and unbeaten track, the threshold of our SECOND VOLUME.

It needs not that we exchange felicitations on the completion of Volume I., nor yet that we discuss whether or not we have fulfilled the promises held out in our Opening Address. Rather let us hark hopefully forward to the future, taking what reasonable care we may that the SECOND VOLUME shall at least maintain the modest aims and aspirations of the FIRST.

Already there have appeared in our columns, in an unbroken series, ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS of unquestionable value, illustrating the history of the proud County Palatine and its immediate Welsh borders. NOTES, QUERIES, and REPLIES, too—furnished from week to week by a numerous, enthusiastic, and honorary staff—have discussed, with temper and intelligence, many a moot point of local by-gones, which otherwise might have been utterly lost in obscurity, or have become a hopeless stumbling-block to the future Historian.

We shall persevere, then, with our labour of love; gradually placing upon permanent record, as the weeks flit by, an ever varying series of Local Documents of interest, culled from reliable sources opened up to us by the generosity of their owners or custodians. Thus, Sir PHILIP GREY-EGERTON sends to us from his inexhaustible MS. stores at Oulton a quantity of

County Documents illustrating the Court of Lieutenancy in the seventeenth century: Dr. KENDRICK, of Warrington, contributes a number of Letters selected from the papers of the celebrated Sir WILLIAM BRERETON, the Parliamentary General in Cheshire during the CIVIL WAR; while Captain E. MASCIÉ TAYLOR entrusts to us for selection and publication his choice series of Domville and Mascie Deeds, referring to what were once his family's Cheshire manors, &c., on the Lancashire borders.

This will shew that we have anything but exhausted the fields of enquiry presented to us. And now, inviting the co-operation of all who are interested in Cheshire, Flintshire, or Denbighshire history, we recommence our labours, wishing our readers, one and all, a very

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- January 7.—Sir Thomas Brereton of Honford, 2nd Baronet, died, extinguishing the title 1672
- „ 8.—Parry's Coach Factory in Foregate-street, Chester, destroyed by fire for the first time 1805
- „ 9.—A party of Royalists from Chester seize Tattenhall..... 1645
- „ 10.—Serjeant John Bradshaw, of Marple, chosen President of Commission for the trial of King Charles I.... 1649
- „ 11.—Shock of Earthquake felt at Audlem, Wrenbury, and Malpas 1878
- „ 12.—William Smith, 20th Dean of Chester, died 1787
- „ 13.—Henry Booth, second Lord Delamere, born 1651

J. H.

Original Documents.

[973] THE SIEGE OF NANTWICH.

There is perhaps no portion of our county history more generally interesting than that of the CIVIL WAR. In that long and sanguinary struggle—upon the one side or the other,—most of our leading local families were actively engaged. There was scarcely a Cheshire household, however humble, which did not contribute at least one of its members, often three or four, to swell the holocaust of the warrior dead: and those of us who can do so after 235 years, love to trace back our lineage to some gallant Cavalier or sturdy Roundhead whose personal prowess was conspicuous in the Cause, whether of King or Parliament.

We make no apology, therefore, for giving the place of honour in our New Volume to the first of a series of Letters from the Correspondence of Sir WILLIAM BREBTON, which we venture to believe have never before been printed. Dr. KENDRICK, of Warrington, has placed the transcripts at our disposal,—the originals are preserved in three folio volumes in the British Museum (Add. MS. 18,980).

The two letters we print to-day refer to the Leaguer of NANTWICH by the Royalist forces, an undertaking only second in importance to the Siege of CHESTER by the Parliamentarians:—

“My Lord,

This night Late I receaved certayne intelligence y't a freshe they have fel vppon WARRINGTON w'th all ye force of Lancashire, and y't S'r [WILLIAM] BREBTON and GEL' [?] have had such a welcome theer y't he dares not shew his face in NAMPTWICH. My lord, if ever we hope to doe anye thinge we must make a shew now, for I know well enough what can be expected from rawe soldyers, rather to offer then attempt any thinge: therefore I humbly desire yo'r lo'pp will draw all ye force you have towards WHITCHURCH, and let me understande ye condicion yo'r lo'pp is in, and I shall not fayle to contribute my servis uppon all occasion as may truly [lie] wit'in me.

yo' honors humble
servant,

N. BYRON.

All ye Art I have is to keepe
my LORD OF DERBY up w't ye hope of
PRINCE RUPERT and yo'r Lo'ps Corape; conceaving him seaffe to be put to all extremities: if I had COLL: ELLIS heere and halfe ye men Ashton lost I would make bould to try what NAMPTWICH would doe.

CHESTER, ye 5 of April, [1643-4]
at 12 in ye night.”

Endorsed on the back—

“For his Ma'tys speciall serv',
To ye Right Honorable ye Lord Capell, Lutenant
Generall to his Highnesse ye prince,
these humbly pase.

at
Elsmore or
elsewhere.

Haste poste haste,
Haste w'the speede.

N. BYRON.

Chester, ye 5 of Aprill, at
12 in ye night.”

This was Sir NICHOLAS BYRON, one of a numerous family of distinguished Royalists; and who, according to Clarendon, was “a soldier of very good command, and was sent by the King in 1643, with a commission of Colonel-General of Cheshire and Shropshire, and to be Governor of Chester; a person of great affability and dexterity, as well as martial knowledge.”

The next letter is from, as the first was addressed to, Arthur Lord Capel, the same who, for his distinguished loyalty during the Civil War, was beheaded in Old Palace Yard on the 9th of March, 1648-9.

“May it please your Highnes,

the probatly (sic) of your coming into these parts wilbe a very greate comfort to all that wish well to his Majestyes affayers; and for my owne part, did not my owne apprehensions make me very confident, that it would be very advantageous for his majesty and honorable for your highnes, I would not presume to Invite your highnes soe much as to thinke of it. The towne of NAMPTWICH is not naturally stronge, and the defences but ordinary, and such as were suddenly made. BREWERTON hath lately received loss of men and reputation att Warrington, and I heare (though I doe not confidently beleve it, hee is returned to NAMPTWICH): when I heare the certaynty of it, I shall Im'ediately acquaint you with it. It is very confidently spoken heere, and of diverse Cheshire gentlemen that I have spoken with, that all the wealth of Cheshire is brought into that towne, both of those that are of their owne party, and what they have plundered; the purches of it wilbe a very good bargaine. After it there is nothing to be done in Cheshire and by it the LORD OF DERBY party, In Lancashire wilbe joyned to your army, and such as I shall be able to attend you with, If I shall have the honor to receive your com'ands. S'r, I beseech you give mee leave to speake my owne apprehension of this busines (which I shall humbly leave to your wisdom to bee considered of), that if it please god to give good success to the attempt of NAMPTWICH (of which in all humane reason there (sic) noe cause to doubt) MANCHESTER wilbe noe difficult matter to your highnes, [with] the forces that attend you, and those that the EARLE OF DERBYE will bringe to you: and after that, betweene Oxford and Scotland, the King's affayers will have littell Impediment, and the conjuncture of all these forces wilbe enough to master

all the Kingdome. I humbly begg your pardon and
rest to Your highnes,

a most humble servant,
6 April [1643-4] ARTHUR CAPPELL.
from SHEWSBURY.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[974]

HUNTINGTON LANE.

A dip occasionally into the ancient Statutes of the Realm, as printed by Berthelet in 1544, will not be found wholly barren of interest for the readers of THE SHEAF. One Act, passed in Henry IV.'s reign, relative to frequent murders and other crimes committed by certain reprobates of Cheshire, has already been printed in these columns. Another is presented to-day of a totally different character, being of the date 1545, 37th Henry VIII., cap. iii., and intituled,

"AN ACTE FOR THE AMENDYNG OF THE HIGH
WAIE BESIDES CHESTER, CALLED HUNTING-
TON LANE.

WHERE AS THE KYNGES maiestees high waie adioynnyng to the cite of CHESTER called Hunting-ton lane, by the space of two miles and an halfe in length, or therabouts, was of late depe, dangerous, and sore for any of the kynges subiectes to traualle other on foote or on horsebacke, with waine or other cariage, and specially in the winter season: whiche waie is nowe well amended and repaired; so that the kynges subiectes maie easily passe and repasse through the saied high waie, towarde and from the saied cite of Chester. And for as muche as the saied high waie can not alwaies so continue in sufficient amendement, without the same be continually loked vnto and repaired: For the continuall maynteynance whereof, it may please the kynges highnesse, that it maie be enacted by his highnes, by thassent of the lordes spirituall and temporall, and the com'ons of this present parliament assembled, and by thautoritee of the same, that from hensforth it shall be lefull for syr WILLIAM STANLEY, and syr HUGH CALUELEY, Knights, and the heires males of their two bodies lafully begotten, beyng of full age; and for lacke of suche heires males, or in default of them or either of them, or suche heires males beyng of full age; that it shall be lefull for the maire and the aldermen of the saied cite of CHESTER, and their successours for euer, to name and appoint any person or persones to sustayne, amende, and repaire the saied high waie from tyme to tyme, when and as often as nede shall require, if the same person or persones will thervnto agree. And the saied person or persones so named and appointed by the saied syr WILLIAM STANLEY and syr HUGH CALUELEY, or their heires males in fourme abovesaid, or for default of suche issue, by the saied maire and aldermen, or their successours of the saied cite of CHESTER, to haue free libertee duryng their tyme, to builde one house or cotage

within the saied high waie in some conuenient place, and in the same the saied person to inhabite and dwell: and suche persone or persones so attending the reparacions of the saied hygh waie, shall haue also grasse pasture or feedyng for fine kyne, or fine other head of cattall in and vpon the saied high waie, and vpon the sides of the same, as farre as the saied high waie doeth extende; that is to witte, from a place called the BOTHILL, to a place called BUTTER-BACHE bridge, co'teining by estimation the space of the saied two myles and a halfe.

AND FURTHER be it enacted, that if it fortune any suche person or persones as shall hereafter from tyme to tyme be named and appointed in maner and fourme aforesaied, for and concernyng the sustentacion and amendment of the saied high waie, to be remisse or negligent in amendyng any part thereof whan nede shall require, that than syr WILLIAM STANLEY and syr HUGH CALUELEY, and theyr heires males in fourme aforesaied, and in default of them or theyr heires males in fourme aforesaied, that it maie in like maner be lefull vnto the saied maire and aldermen aforesaied and their successours to discharge and put from the saied house, pasture, and fedyng enery suche person or persons, as so shall be negligent or remisse, and to assigne and put in his place one other person sufficiently to serue for the amendyng of the saied waie, accordyng to the true intent and meanyng of this estatute."

I believe the provisions of this special "estatute" are still held to be in force as against the owners of the lands, pastures, and sidings so enclosed; and that the representatives of the persons so appointed, to maintain and keep in order the said "depe, dangerous, and sore" road in bluff King Hal's time, are still liable to the duty, and have actually seen to its performance within living memory. T. HUGHES.

[975]

CHESHIRE GRAND JURIES.

Admiral MASSIE has in his possession an interleaved copy of the "Chester Election Poll Book" for 1747, originally belonging to his ancestor, Richard Massie, Esq., of Coddington; who had entered therein, from time to time, Lists of the Grand Juries on which he had personally served, between the years 1743 and 1769. On an average, in those days, about twenty county magistrates appear to have answered to their names at the Assizes held twice a year for the Palatinate. One of these lists will perhaps suffice to print as a sample of the whole:—

"Names of the Grand Jury, August 22, 1743,
P. Egerton of Oulton, High Sheriff.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Sir Robt. Grosvenor, Bt.,
Foreman | 9. John Brerewood |
| 2. Charles Cholmondeley | 10. Edward Rogers |
| 3. John Crews | 11. Richard Lowndes |
| 4. Roger Wilbraham,
Dorfold | 12. Robert Clowes |
| 5. Robt. Hyde | 13. Robert Walley |
| 6. John Leche | 14. Fran. Ellcock |
| 7. Edward Wright | 15. Will. Cowper |
| 8. Richard Serrage | 16. Henry Hardware |
| | 17. Myself (Rich. Massie)" |

In the Grand Jury for March 4, 1747-8, Sir Richard Brooke was foreman, and Mr. Massie records in a footnote:—

"There is no Bill of any sort brought before this Jury, nor any Business of any kind whatever, save Eat, Drink, Smoke, and be Jolly."

The Lord Viscount Kilmorey was Foreman of the Grand Jury at the September Assizes, 1750, and Sir Peter Warburton in 1751. Under the List of Jurors on this latter occasion, Mr. Massie writes:—

"N.B. The Grand Jury's Bill for Dinner and Drink came to 25 pounds, in which was charged 10 shillings for Hazle Nuts. This Bill was made by Morrice Matthews of the Ship Tavern."

In April 1752, Sir Robert Grosvenor was again Foreman; and on April 23, 1753, Thomas Chokmondeley, Esq., took that position. Mr. Massie and the Grand Jurors were evidently now in better humour with their fare and their host, for the squire of Coddington writes of the last-named feast in the following satisfactory terms:—

"The Entertainment was at Mr. Harts, of the Yacht, where out of 17 guineas [there were only 17 Jurors present at this time], after an exceeding good dinner there was four guineas to spare, which was given to the Prisoners in the Castle."

The Foremen on later occasions recorded by Mr. Massie were, the Hon. John Smith Barry, Sir Richard Brooke, Bt., and Sir Peter Warburton, Bt.; but there were no circumstances apparently worthy of being recorded in the Coddington copy of the "Chester Election Poll Book."

EDITOR.

[976] NANTWICH NOTABLES, 1768.

As Cheshire Worthies seem to be, just now, in request, I send you a List of Nantwich Notables of the last century—in pasquinade—copied from a contemporary MS. The original is defective, from age and damp, at the creases, which will account for some words being imperfect:—

MANNERS, CHAR[ACTER]S, &C., OF LADYS AND GENTLE'N. NAMPT'WOKE, JAN'RY, 1768.

Part I.

Politeness instructing her 3 pupils
Beauty, Affability and Vivacity,
in ye School of ye World. A
capital by Mrs. Pa-yne
The English Malady by Mr. Pa-yne
Ye History of Lady Fe . . wood Mrs. G-b-ns
Tables of Interest, to which are
added Parliamentary acts
against usury Mrs. E-l-ok
Ye cave of famine, highly finished Dr. Co-p-r
Ye Eunuch, by Mr. W-l-l-y
Illusions of fancy, set to musick. Mr. B-ke
A critical enquiry into ye system
of surgery Miss V-ne
Ye country Virgins in mask,
comick opera Miss C-b-ch's

A whole length figure of affrontery
in Bronze Mrs. B-t-iff
Ye harmless bedfellow Mr. B-t-iff
Love in a Village, a dramatick
entertainment Miss B-ng
Ye charms of domestick hapiness
in perspective Miss H-ll
Elements of ye practice of house-
keeping Miss A-d-y
Medical observations Miss P-n-g-n
A Group of Devotees at ye shrine
of Celibacy, curiously cut in
stone Miss P-ob-tt
Ye Modern Suint, in farce Mr. W-s-l-n
Ye Metamorphosis or Disinterred
Hermit Capt T-g
Parental Tyranny, a Tragedy, as
it is now acting in ye Oatmarket Miss S-l-ns
Quevedos Visions Mr. B-te
Epictetus, finely gilt, with an
original essay on Economy,
price £3 13s. 6d. . . . Mr. W. K-nt
Ye Social and Self tormentor Mr. A-d-y
Ye Castle of indolence Mrs. B-r-w
Ye accomplished Gossip, or a
treat for old women Mr. Rd. W-ck-d
The Meretriciad, with an . . ology
to the Ladys of Nantwich Mr. H-ys
The Secret impenitible, by ye
Author
Tushingham Hall. B. LL. V.

Queries.

[977] ACTON AND NANTWICH CHURCHES.

The people resident in and about ACTON declare that the churchyard of their village is exactly on a level with the top of NANTWICH church tower. Is this statement simply tradition, or has the fact ever been scientifically proved! J. H.

[978] JOSEPH HEMINGWAY.

The above-named, who was at the time Editor of the *Chester Chronicle*, published in 1831, his well-known and very respectable *History of the City of Chester*, in two volumes 8vo; and he died, so far as I remember, somewhere about the years 1837-8. His was the first attempt that had been made to produce anything like a popular history of Chester; and he certainly managed to bring together in a readable form a large mass of interesting material illustrative of the past days of the good old city. I suppose he was not a native of Chester, for the name has never occurred in any records of the county which have at any time come under my ken? Some sort of biography of Hemingway, while there remain to us those who knew him intimately, should surely be included within the fruitful bands of THE CHESHIRE SHEAF. M. O. Y.

[979] THE ABBEY GATE, CHESTER.

The local historian HANSHALL, in his little work entitled *The Stranger in Chester*, 1816, quoting from some authority he has omitted to name, records as follows:—

"1591, April 26. The gate to the Abbey Square, near the Register Office, began to be built."

What gate can this refer to? It is at present somewhat of a riddle to me. L. L.

[980] THE EARL OF FLINT.

Who was he? I see him so addressed in a pasquinade issued towards the end of the seventeenth century, but I cannot find any such title in the Peerages accessible to me. Perhaps it may have been only an imaginary title, given to the person referred to in derision; just as I remember a late Sheriff of Chester, who was a cork-cutter, being jocularly by his boon companions dubbed "Lord Cork!" H. S. A.

Replies.

[981] THE CYCLE.

[No. 805.—Sep. 8.]

An advertisement, somewhat similar to the one quoted by LANDWOR at the above date, appeared in the *Chester Chronicle* of Jan. 14, 1791, which was worded as follows:—

"R. W. WYNNE, Esq'r's CYCLE will be held at the Eagles Inn, Wrexham, on Monday, the 17th inst. Dinner at three o'clock.
Gartherwin, Jan. 6, 1791."

In the *Cambrian Quarterly Mag.* for April, 1829, it is stated that "The CYCLE, now merely a social meeting, the members of which are gentlemen resident in the neighbourhood of Wrexham, and part of Cheshire, was originally a secret assembly, which met for the purpose of furthering the pretensions of Prince Charles Edward to the Crown of Great Britain." One of the rules (agreed to in 1724) stated that the annual meeting of the Club was to be held at the house of Daniel Porter, jun., of Wrexham. Perhaps LANDWOR can tell us who this Porter was?

In the *Memoirs of Charlotte Williams Wynn* (published a year or two back) there is a record of one of the meetings of THE CYCLE, held at Wynnstay in 1843; and I believe up to a still more recent period the club existed. The late Lord Harlech possessed some papers in which a record was given of one or more meetings at Porkington. Miss Wynn states that "the wife of the Sir Watkin of the day was the only lady ever admitted to dine with the members." A.B.

Croeswyllan, Oswestry.

JANUARY 14, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

January 14.—Holt Castle taken and the town burned	1646
" 16.—Gerard Massie, nominated by James I. to the See of Chester, died.....	1615
" 18.—Mr. John Bruen, of Bruen Stapleford, died.....	1652

J. H.

Original Documents.

[982] THE MINSHULLS OF STOKE.

The historians of Cheshire in the last and present centuries have made no end of havoc with the descent of this family; which, tracing originally from a second son of the Minshulls of Church Minshull, settled and continued at NANTWICH for about five generations. In the fifth, and for four descents more, the Minshulls hailed from STOKE HALL, in the adjoining parish of ACTON, having become its material lords by purchase from the knightly family of ASTON, of Aston.

I shall busy myself to-day with but one of the errors above referred to—the others may yet come to be discussed hereafter. Writing of the ASTONS of STOKE, Dr. Williamson, in his *Villars Cestriense*, says:—

"In this name it continued until EDWARD MINSHULL, son of Geoffry Minshull of Nantwich, bought this manor from John Aston of Aston, esq., whose great-grandson, Edward Minshull, esq., is lord thereof, 1701."

The following document, of which the original is in my possession, will be found to correct a mis-statement in this quotation from the *Villars*, as it also fixes the date of the sale of the manor by the Astons:—

"THIS INDENTURE made the tenth daye of September, in the years of the raigne of our Sou'aigne Lord James, by the grace of god Kinge of England, fraunce & Ireland, Defendo'r of the fayth, &c. the nynethe, & of Scotland the fyve and forthith, Betwene S'r THOMAS ASTON of Aston, in the Countie of Chester, knight, & JOHN ASTON Esq'r, sonne & heire apparent of the sayd S'r Thomas, of thone p'tie, And EDWARD MINSHULL of WYCHEM MALBANK, in the sayd Countie of Chester, gent', of thother p'tie. WITNESSETH that in p'te of p'formance of certen Coven'nts, graunts, articles & agre'm'ts heretofore had, made, & agreed vpon betwene the sayd S'r Thomas Aston & the sayd Edward Minshull, & alsoe betwene the sayd John Aston & the sayd Edward Minshull, concerninge the Manor of STOKE iuxta HURLESTON with thapp'ten'no's in the sayd Countie of Chester, & concern-

inge all the mesuag's, lands, ten'ts & hereditam'ts in STOKES iuxta HURLESTON aforesayd, or elsewhere in the parishe of ACTON al's AUGHTON, in the sayd Countie of Chester, heretofore thenheritance of the sayd S'r Thomas Aston. It is Condescended & agreed by & betwene the sayd p'ties, That they the sayd S'r Thomas Aston and John Aston shall and will, at the nexte greate Sessions or Assizes to be houlden w'thin the sayd Countie of Chester, and for the same shyre, levie one fyne w'th p'clamac'ons therevpon to be had, accordinge to the lawes and Statut's in that Case p'vided, vnto the sayd Edward Minshull, as Counsell to be named in the same fyne of the sayd Mano'r of Stoke iuxta Hurleston w'th thapp'ten'nc's, and of all the sayd mesuages, lands, ten'ts, &c. [shall devise], By THE name or names of the Mano'r of Stoke iuxta Hurleston w'th thapp'ten'nc's, and of seaven mesuag's, sixe Cot-tag's, one Mille, throtteene gardens, sixe hundred acres of land, twoe hundred acres of meadows, sixe hundred acres of pasture, one hundred acres of woodd, fyve hundred acres of heathe, fyve hundred acres of Moore, and twentie acres of land covered w'th water [2520 acres in all] w'th theire app'ten'nc's in Stoke iuxta Hurleston, or by such other name or names as by the Councell learned of the sayd Edward Minshull shalbe devysed. By w'ch fyne the sayd S'r Thomas Aston and John Aston shall re-cognoize and knowlege the Mano'r and ten'ts aforesayd w'th theire app'ten'nc's to be the right of the sayd Edward Minshull, as those w'ch the same Edward then shall have of the giftes of the sayd S'r Thomas and John. And the same shall remyse and quyte Clayme from theym the sayd S'r Thomas and John, and the heires of the sayd S'r Thomas to the sayd Edward Minshull, and his heires for eu'. AND furthermore the sayd S'r Thomas shall graunte by the same fyne for him and his heires that they shall warrante the Mano'r and ten'ts aforesayd w'th thapp'ten'nc's vnto the sayd Edward Minshull and his heires, against him the sayd S'r Thomas and his heires, foren'. And alsoe the sayd John Aston shall graunte by the same fyne for him and his heires, That they shall warrante the Mano'r and ten'ts aforesayd with thapp'ten'nc's vnto the sayd Edward Minshull and his heires, against him the sayd John and his heires, foren'. AND it is further Condescended and agreed, &c., that the sayd fyne, &c., shall be adjudged and be seised, &c., To the onelie vse and behoofe of the sayd Edward Minshull, his heires, and Assignes for eu', absolutelie and w'thout any Condi'con, And not to any other vse, intende, or purpose in any wyse. In witness whereof the p'ties aboue sayd to theise p'sents enterchaungable have sett theire seales, the daye and yeare firste aboue written.

THOMAS ASTON. JOHN ASTON.

Sealed, Subscriybed, and delyn'ed

yn ye p'sence of

Tho: Ireland

Thomas Grymesdyche

John houlford

John Hatton."

Endorsed, in a later hand,

"Sir Tho's Aston, Kn't, to Edw'd Minshull.

Cov't to levy a Fine of the Manor and Estates of Stoke juxta Hurleston, oo: Chester."

From this Covenant it appears that it was Sir Thomas Aston and his son John, jointly, who conveyed the Manor of Stoke to the Minshulls, and not John Aston the son, as stated by Williamson and as repeated by Dr. OMEROD in the *History of Cheshire*, vol. iii., p. 191.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[983] BALDWIN'S BALLOON ASCENT FROM CHESTER.

In a book called "Manners and Customs of all Nations," by the Rev. John Platts, 1827, under an article on "Aerostation," I find:—

"On the 8th of September [1785] Mr. Baldwin ascended from the city of Chester, and performed an aerial voyage of twenty-five miles in two hours and a quarter. His greatest elevation was about a mile and a half, and he supposes that the velocity of the motion was sometimes at the rate of twenty miles an hour. He has published a circumstantial account of his voyage, describing the appearances of the clouds as he passed through them, and has annexed a variety of observations relating to aerostation."

The incident is recorded in HEMINGWAY'S *Chester*, vol. 2, p. 252, in his "Historical Events."

The Temple.

B. WILBRAHAM JONES.

[984] THINGS I REMEMBER.

No. 10.

A STORM IN CHESTER IN 1839.

I recollect well enough, though 'tis 41 years ago, a terrible Storm of wind, which occurred on the night of Jan'y. 6, 1839. Amongst other calamitous incidents of that night, a chimney was blown down at DEX HOUSE, now a Roman Catholic Convent, but then the residence of Rev. C. B. Tayler, Rector of St. Peter's. His nephew was asleep under the place where the chimney fell, and would have been killed but for the providential fall of a beam aslant across the bed, whereby he was saved.

Having to be on duty at the Post Office at 2 a.m., which was about the very height of the storm, I remember the especially nimble way in which I ran from shelter to shelter between the blasts, every moment fearing, almost indeed expecting, a fracture of the skull. While thus sheltering in the Row, at the bottom of Queen-street, I saw a man with a three-legged table on his head, crossing the street at that early hour, and

taking that novel means to save his head from the slates flying about in all directions from the stripped roofs in Foregate-street.

When Mr. JOHN LLOYD, grandfather to our worthy Recorder, and the popular Prothonotary of that day, called at the Post Office the following morning, I asked how he had fared during the night, at his exposed residence at the Mount, in Boughton? He said, "I lay quiet in bed until my bedroom window was blown in, and the pictures began to fly about the room, when I thought it was time to get up!" This was a sample of the havoc occasioned by this extraordinary Storm.

On the morning after this happened, a servant girl, who had come the previous day to live with us, said "she would not stay, for they had not such winds as that in the country!"; but her Mother happening to call later on that morning, told her daughter how the road was blocked up with trees blown down, and of houses almost unroofed. The girl was then quite satisfied to remain, lest by going back home she should be jumping "out of the frying-pan into the fire."

B. O.

[985] NANTWICH NOTABLES, 1768.

Part II.

The Cook lane Spirit no(w) laid, or the Belle Passion triumphant in Woman of 70.....	Mrs. Cr—w
Old Nick's Chronicle, or [mi]raculous anecdotes	Mrs. L—w—ds
The flatterer's Coxcomb, or Journey to Works—pr.....	Mrs. W. Y—x—l
Love upon tick.....	Dr. H—ll & Mrs. B—g—y
Ye provok'd Wife, a dramatick Piece.....	Mrs. T—l—r
Ye Laws of specifick Gra(vity) in folio	Miss Sh—l
Ye life & adventures of Te . . . rottram, as revis'd & corrected	Mr. Ra. C—p—r
A Plan of Bolesworth Castle, its Elevation as seen from Bickerton Hills, with H—k—ls remarks	Mr. W. Y—x—l, Senr
Ye Cassocked Waggoner, drole tale	Mr. P—t—go
Modern extravagance	Mrs. P—t—go
Ye Matrimonial Precepts, or ye Sports of Ashbrook Vale	Mrs. K—n—ly
Tom Thumb's History bound in Sheep	Mr. T—m—s
Melancholy consideration on the present state of the Clergy...	Miss W—ck—d
A good Wife a great blessing.....	Dr. K—ne
Natural enquiries into the state of Man.....	Miss H—r—s
Vanity in tears for the loss of her Mirrour—a Drawing in Water Colours.....	Miss P—g A—d—y
Advantages of an Economical Skull—A Poem in Doggr'l	Mr. W—k—s
Sonnets to Sleep	Miss W—k—ss

Ye Sallies of unguarded youth modestly vindicated	Miss S—y A—d—y
Worth & Civility in the greatest simplicity	Mr. H—r—s
Amazonian exploits	Mrs. W—al
Ye Night Woman with Gr—me—lls explanatory notes	Mrs. T—g
The Sick Lady, amusing her melancholy in Sheets	Mrs. W—l
In Homicidii defensionem, Oratio latina A viduas Malbanenses Extempora habita ...	Mrs. H—ll
Manners, translated from the French, interleaved with asses skin, very proper for remarks. R'd	Mr. K—t
Models of conversation for Persons of polite education	Mr. Th—k—s
Tushingham Hall.	B. LL. V.

[We hope some correspondent familiar with the names of the Nantwich "upper ten" about a century ago will enable us and our readers to fill up the blanks in the foregoing names.—EDITOR.]

Queries.

[986] ARCHDEACON ROGERS.

Such a man as ROBERT ROGERS, B.D. (second Archdeacon of Chester after the foundation) a Cheshire antiquary of no little eminence in his day, should not be forgotten from the annals of our ancient city.

It appears he was appointed Archdeacon of Chester in 1581 (Hemingway), and I can glean nothing further of him, or as to his Burial Place.

I notice by reference to the Rev. THOS. CRANE's pamphlet on ECCLESTON Parish (1771) that his Widow lies there:—by presumptive evidence, one may think he also found a resting place there; but I would like to ascertain *this* and any other item shewing why he should be connected with this parish? Was he Rector at any period?

I give the Inscription from his Wife's Tomb, as it existed when Mr. CRANE took his notes.

"The memoriall of the just shall be blessed. Thou shalt go to thy grave in full age, as a rieke of cometh in due season into ye Barn." (arms)

Pro: X.

Job V.

Hears lyeth

Interred the bodie

of Mrs. ELIZABETH ROGERS, one of the daughters of John Deane of Wallingford in the countye of Barkshire, Gent: and late Wiffe to that Reverend Man of God, Mr. ROBT. ROGERS, Batchlar of devinitie, Archdeacon of Chester, and one of the Prebundes of the Cathedral Church of the same, with whom she lived xxvj yeres; a rare wiffe and godly matron: by whom she had x sonnes and v daughters:

after whose death she remained a devout widow unto the time of her death, being xxij yeares: whose holy life, love to her husband and childeren, liberalitie to the poor in sickness and diseases, a rare gift of God, Christian Charitie towards all, with her truly religious life both in counsell and practise, shined in her plentifully all her dayes, to God's glorye and now to her endles eternitie. Who departed this life in a good age, the xj day of December, Anno Domini 1617, and in the lxxij yeares of her Age."

It appears the above was painted on a *this board*, (something similar to one I have seen in Chester Cathedral, to the memory of Randal Leche, late alderman of Chester), which no longer exists: with other monuments, it seems to have been demolished when our church was rebuilt in 1810.

Hanshall notices a window in the Eaton Chapel (Eccleston Church), having an inscription to the following effect:—

"Of your charitie pray for the souls of Rafe Rogers, Maior of the Citie of Chester, and Lucey his wife. Anno 1534."

Eccleston.

JNO. LEYFIELD.

Replies.

[987]

MURENGERS.

[No. 551.—March 5.]

CHESTER was not alone in possessing its MURENGER. Amongst the Corporation documents of OSWESTRY, under date of 1560, there is preserved "The Murenger's Account;" by which (as Mr. STANLEY LEIGHTON, M.P., says in a paper he has contributed to the "Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society") it would appear that "the Murrenger was an officer of the first magnitude in Oswestry;" all the important accounts connected with the town passing through his hands. However, a few years later (1582), by the provisions of "A Book of Constitutions," he was shorn of much of his importance, and payments formerly made through him were made to the Bailiff direct; from which period, too, the latter had the charge of repairing the walls.

A. E.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

[988] CAPTAIN GEORGE FARMER, R.N.

[No. 943.—Dec. 17.]

In the papers in the autumn of 1874, mention was made of a "distressed Baronet," residing in Australia, and passing under the name of Mr. Farmer, but in reality Sir George Farmer, Bart., who resided many years ago in this parish. The present baronet, then a mere boy, came with his father and mother and lived at "the Castle," a very humble residence near the church.

The family were then in but low circumstances. There were also said to be three sisters. The father worked, as an amateur, at the rope-walk in Bideford, but only to test the utility of his invention for manufacturing New Zealand flax. So fully was he convinced that in this he had made an important discovery, that the neighbours frequently heard him say he would not sell the invention for £20,000. For service in the Peninsular Campaign he had a pension, his interest in which he sold to enable him to mature his discovery. Connected with this family, I find in my parish register three entries:—

1838—Richard Hall, son of Sir George Richard Farmer, Bart., of Castle House, Buckland Brewer, and Lady Irene, his wife. Baptised 26th April.

1839—Ann, daughter of Sir George Richard Farmer, Bart. [&c., as above]. Baptised 16th June.

1839—Richard Hall Farmer, Castle House, aged 6 months [&c.]. Buried 1st January.

On the occasion of the Coronation of the Queen, there was a public dinner in the village street: Mr. Speke, father of the Nile traveller, presided at one end, and Sir George Farmer at the other. He resided for awhile in the village of Instow, where he buried a daughter, Aphra. He himself died, I am told, in London; and that when his son was informed of his father's death, he was serving in a very humble capacity on an Australian railway.

J. INGLE DREDGE.

Buckland Brewer, North Devon.

[989]

CHESTER CELEBRITIES.

[No. 963.—Dec. 31.]

The point of "Antiquary's" short communication is, that we should not allow the remembrance of local celebrities to perish; but he surely cannot know how difficult a thing it is to gather up into anything like a continuous story the passing incidents in dead men's lives. The friends and companions of notable, but un-noticed, past celebrities have themselves long since departed, and with them, the stories which they could relate by word of mouth; just because scribes were not forthcoming to note, in a more permanent form, the free and easy conversations, which helped to make up local history in the days of our fathers.

I will try to give you some account of WILLIAM TASKER, just as I have picked it up from time to time during my sojourn in this "ancient city." His father, Charles Moulson Tasker, was a Chester man, and justly claimed descent from the old Cheshire MOULSONS, who at one time cut a figure in local history. In the year 1808 he had to trudge, with Sarah his wife, to London in search of employment; and in about a month after their arrival in the big City, WILLIAM TASKER their son was born in Golden Square, the date of his birth being the 16th of April, in the year 1808 aforesaid.

How long they remained in London I know not, but in the year 1818 young TASKER was a pupil in our Blue Coat School; and shortly afterwards he was hard at work as a lad painter, hoping thereby to gain for himself the means of living. The pencil and brush, however, had charms for him, which none but a born painter can understand; and in looking over a mass of scraps, which he had drawn when quite a young man, I can see how rapidly and surely he was growing into perfection. He evidently found amusement in everything, for upon divers lots of dirty paper I find men, women, horses, dogs, and other objects, sketched in pencil and in ink with a masterly freedom which would have done credit to dear "Dicky Doyle."

I suppose he must have grown weary of the dull monotony of a Chester life, for he spent some part of his time at Leeds. There he was employed as a lithographer, but failing health brought him back to his old home; and I see his name mentioned on a scrap of paper now before me, as the "first drawing master engaged by the committee of the Chester MECHANICS' INSTITUTION." How the poor fellow toiled in those days none of us can know; but he threw off a mighty lot of horses, dogs, &c., in ink, water colours, and oils, which should of themselves suffice to stamp him as a genuine artist of surpassing ability. The late Mr. RICHARD CONGREVE, of Burton, got to know of him, and became his patron and friend; for he resided under the hospitable roof of BURTON HALL for some years, teaching the young CONGREVES to draw, to paint, and to lithograph; and there too he met with his better half, a Miss Jones, from Northop, who served as governess in the Burton household. I have often smiled, when looking at the Tasker drawings of that day; for FLINT Castle, and the country behind it, make up the distant parts of nearly all his pictures. Whether he had taken a loving interest in the Welsh side of the Dee for Miss Jones' sake, and had sketched the coast to gratify her affections for the old mother land, we cannot tell; but in any case the fact is as I have stated, and many of WILLIAM TASKER's memorials carry you to the contemplation of both sides of the Dee. Messrs. Seacombe, Evans and Duckar, Catherall and Priohard, and other local publishers, employed him in making drawings of the principal Chester streets, and of old buildings in and about the city; and I have now before me a tolerable collection of the engravings and lithographs which were printed from them. Their excellence and faithfulness none can question, and thus are we brought face to face with the many sided character of this humble but accomplished local artist. Mr. THOMAS HUGHES has dwelt upon some of the beautiful works he executed at RATON HALL; and in a letter which I have seen from a friend who loved him well, it is said that "few men could be compared with him; he was clever without conceit; willing to toil, and to allow others to claim all the credit, which by right was his; poor, because

his best works were made for love, not money; and unknown, because he died in the midst of his days, in a city where art was not appreciated." He died on the 1st of September, 1852, at the early age of forty-four; and to this day the fame of WILLIAM TASKER has been all but a dead letter in the annals of a city he loved so well. I once saw a sketch of his in pencil which brought to my mind the following lines, in one of Warburton's *Cheshire Hunting Songs* :—

"This horn the grand forester wore at his side
Whene'er his liege lord chose a hunting to ride:
By Sir Ralph and his heirs for a century blown,
It passed from their lips to the mouth of a Done.
Oh, then the proud falcon, unloosed from the glove,
Like her master below, played the tyrant above;
While faintly, more faintly were heard in the sky,
The silver-toned bells, as she darted on high."

Need I draw the moral? Nay, let me leave the humble artist alone in his glory. 8.

JANUARY 21, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Jan. 21.—Bowyer Edmund Sparke consecrated 26th Bishop of Chester	1810
„ 22.—Court of Inquiry sat to investigate affair between the Press-gang and Volunteers	1804
„ 25.—Macclesfield Grammar School founded by Will of Sir John Percival.....	1502
„ 27.—River Dee frozen over; three young men drowned therein	1599
J. H.	

Original Documents.

[990] FRANCIS SANDFORD'S SON AT COLLEGE.

The three Letters I this week print come, like several other valued contributions to THE SHEAF, from the family papers at Sandford, Salop. FRANCIS SANDFORD, the writer of two of the Letters, was the Civil War officer so "skilled," according to Fuller, "in making warlike fortifications;" who superintended the defensive works set up in and around CHESTER during the Siege; and who was for some time a prisoner on parole at the neighbouring garrison at NANTWICH. He resided during his earlier married life at Carnow Castle, co. Wicklow, having wedded a daughter of Caldecott Chambre, Esq, purchaser of Carnow and Shillelagh from King James I.

At the date of these Letters, Francis Sandford had come recently over from Ireland on a visit to his father, his son and heir ROBERT having been for some time previously staying with his grandparents at the family seat at Sandford. On reaching his Shropshire home, whither rumours of his death at sea had preceded him, and just too late to greet his son prior to the youth's departure for the University, he writes as follows to his good wife at the Grange:—

"Sweet hart,

I writt one letter vnto you, out of the Isles of Man, a second from Chester, and this is the third att Sandford, weare the newes was that I was Cast away, and thearefore how welcome I was you may iudge.

Robin was gone to Oxford about a fortnight before my Cominge hither, beinge the third of this pr'sent moneth, and his Vncle Sam with him, and left the inclosed letters to be sent vnto vs: the man that wayted vpon him is returned, and reports that he is mightie well pleased in beinge theare; but his Granfather and Granmother weare loth to haue parted with him, if theire iudgments had not eert awayed theire affections. He is of Lincolne Colledge, whither Doctor Hood badd him very kindly wellocome.

I thank god I found my ffather and mother very well, but my mother had kept hir Chamber for a good space vntill my Cominge: they remember them both kindly vnto you, with thanks from my ffather for the Vsquebaugh you sent him last, and from my mother for your p'sent token; as soone as I Come to London, you shall heare further from mee,—in the meane time, with my true loue to you and my littell ons, I rest your ashured loneinge Partner

FFR: SANDFORDE.

Sandforde,

Febry 6, 1640."

Addressed on fly leaf

"To my deare esteemed Partner

Mrs. Sandford att the Grange,
neare Dublin, thes be d'd'.

Leane this letter att

Mr. Alderman Lakes in
Castellstreete in Dublin."

Mrs. Sandford endorses this letter at its foot as follows,

"these I rec^d the 17 Aprill, 1641."

The letter of Robin, the young Oxonian, too, has been preserved, thanks no doubt to his mother's loving care amongst the family papers at Sandford, and is in the following terms:—

"Sir,

These are to certifie you, that my Grandfather is pleased at this instant to sende mee to Oxford, and that hee will, for the placinge of mee there, make vee of your letter, which my Vncle Samuell (I most humbly thanke him) hath not only vndertaken to deliuere to the handes of Doctor Hooke, but alsoe intendes (God willinge) to see mee settled where the Doctor shall thinke fittinge, who is now Gouenor of

Lincolne-Colledge, and therefore I beleeeve hee will commende mee to that House.

My Grandfather and Grandmother are very well, and doe remember their leues vnto you, desiering that you would shortly write vnto them, for they are very much perplexed that (since my departure from you) they haue not, by see much as report, hearde of you.

I should haue write more at large vnto you, but that the approach of my iourney will not permitte, and the time I intended for writinge was bestowed vpon the solemnization of my Cozen Churches weddinge; who was married (vpon the 17 of this moneth) to the only Daughter of Mr. higin of Amington, beinge a Gentile-woman of much dowry.

I beseech you let mee vnderstand as soone as may bee, how you doe all, and hane done, since my departure, and alsoe how my Sister's (Maryes) Phisioke hath worked; for in soe doinge you will minister a greate deale of comfort to my Grandfather and Grandmother, and vnspcakable ioy to mee, who am bounde to pray for the continuance of all your healths, and that all filicities, that can bee desiered, may descend vpon you.

soe with my hearty prayers for the health of you, my Mother, and all my Brothers and Sisters, I rest in haste

Your dutifull Sonne

BOB: SANDFORD.

Dated at Sandford

Jany: 19, 1640."

The 'dutifull' Master Robin addresses his letter as follows.

"To the worship: and his much honored ffather
Mr. FRANCIS SANDFORD,
at the Grang, neare Dublin,
these present."

On the 8th of March, Mr. Francis Sandford again writes to his wife and children the following business-like and chatty letter:—

"Deare lones,

I haue received your letter and the writings you sent mee: the petioⁿ for Shelaugh is p'fered, and I make no question but it will be recovered to the right heires, and that shortly. You may tell Captaine Billingsley, and the Lifenant, that the armie in the north is to be disbanded, and the standinge Armie to be reinforced to [two] hundreds a peice to every Company.

The Earle of Strafford (I think) will come this week to his tryall; the Kinge would faine saue him, but the Common opinion is that he will hardly escape Death. The Archibishop of Canterbury was removed from the blaek rodd to the Tower vpon monday last; S'r George Radcliffe remains in the gatehouse, whither he was Committed at the frst.

The herball and the booke for Mall (of whose recovery I longe to heare) I will send by the next safe Conveyance; the new herball will Cost aboue fortie shillings, which hath aboue one thousand new plants aded to itt, and thearefore I would haue you

to bestow yours that you haue vpon the gentell-woman you writte of, whose perhaps will esteeme one byrd in the hand worth two in the woode.

I shall with in 4 or 5 dayes leane London, and goe downe into Shropshire. I meane to take Oxford in my way, and see Robin: when I come into the Country, you shall heare from mee againe; in the meane time I hope you haue receined supplie of moneyes from John Percivall. And see with my loue to all ours, and my asured true respect to your selfe,

I rest your truly louinge partner

FRA: SANDFORD.

The 23 of Aprill is apointed for the heareinge of the Cause for Shelelaugh: weale and wright are sent for by the bearer.

reme'ber my loue to m'r Lake and m'r's lake.

If m'r George Cope be not Come for England, reme'ber my loue to him, and tell him from mee he may sooner gett releife from the parliament in Ireland than heare.

from the lo: Brabasons house in the ould Pallace in Westminster, wheare I lodge and am verie kindly entertayned. March 8, 1640."

This letter is addressed, like the previous one,

"To my deare respected partner
Mrs. Sandford at the Grange
neare Dublin, thes d'd."

"The herball" for his daughter Mall, whose delicate health is alluded to also in her brother Robert's letter, was, I suspect, a new edition of GERARDE'S *Herball*, the fame of which was such that it was several times reprinted in the 17th century. It is still a work much sought after by all collectors of Cheshire books.

ROBERT SANDFORD, the son, after completing his terms at the university, married Anne, daughter of PETER DANIEL, of Tabley, co. Chester, esq., and through them the line of this eminently loyal family has been preserved intact to the present day.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[991] JOHN MUSGROVE.

I quite agree with the idea thrown out by your correspondent "ANTIQUARY," as to obtaining information about some of the works produced by Chester Artists, and placing them on record in THE SHEAF.

Altho' Chester has never been famed for its patronage of the Fine Arts, yet she can boast of native, or at least, resident Artists whose works will long remain mementoes of genius.

Let us first refer to that unrivalled genius in Pen and Ink drawing, poor old Musgrove. He was a gentle, quiet, and inoffensive man, void of sufficient moral

courage to strive for his own personal advancement, and yet, for the mere love of Art, underwent much privation to advance it.

Owing to a love affair, in the earlier part of his career, he for a time became nearly insane, whereby he lost a good position in the Herald Office, London, obtained for him by the first Lord Westminster.

Many of his professed admirers took advantage of his naturally easy disposition, and rarely paid a tithe of the value of the drawings made for them; for instance, for a drawing which took him three weeks to do, he was paid Half a Guinea; hence his life became a life of penury and starvation.

It is true many gave him a glass of ale, when at the time he much more urgently wanted bread; the consequence was, the empty stomach caused the ale to get into his head, and hence he was most unjustly set down as a drunken sot. I remember relieving his wants on one occasion, when, I afterwards found out, he had at the time been without food for three days!

I first met with him in 1832, while employed by Mr. Trubshaw (the contractor for the GROSVENOR BRIDGE) making a drawing of the Bridge while it was in progress of erection, and while the wood centres were still under the arch. It was a very large drawing, and contained an immense amount of work with the pen; for he would never use the brush, in any of his drawings, to save labour in the shadows. This drawing is the gem of all his drawings. As a work of Art it is of very great value; and yet the rate of pay awarded him for doing it, was the miserable pittance of five shillings a week.

I do not suppose during the remaining years of his life, he ever got more than five shillings a week; and but for the kindness of a few real friends helping him he would over and over again have starved. One of his best friends was the first Marquess of Westminster. He at last became so emaciated and weak, that he was obliged to seek the Workhouse, where he died with Half a Crown only in his pocket! Where he was buried I know not.

The Gem of his smaller drawings was the interior of an Engraver's Shop, which was made for his friend John Dean, engraver, adjoining St. Peter's Church, Watergate Bow. This shop has long been converted into an eating-house. He himself always considered this drawing of Dean's shop his best work. He also made a drawing of the south side of the Castle and Flour Mills, as seen from Edgar's Cave field. These three drawings I think are the best of his that I have seen. He made a drawing of the Blue Coat School, which Mr. Romney engraved, and which now illustrates the Blue Coat School annual report. His many smaller drawings are scattered far and wide over this and the adjoining counties. He was a good Heraldic draughtsman, as well in ink as in colors; and produced a good etching on copper of EDGAR'S CAVE, which has ever been a deserved favourite among collectors. R. O.

Queries.

[992] CHESHIRE BRICK AND STONE CHURCHES.

At a period circumscribed certainly within the last two centuries, a strange passion seems to have seized the church "restorers" of CHESHIRE. Noting or fancying that their little village sanctuaries needed some attention, they at once set to work, under the eye of that almost inspired architect, Mr. Churchwarden; and after pulling down probably the most interesting and beautiful portion of their church, built up in its place a staring abortion of their own, which no excuse can justify, no ornamentation, even in hide-all plaster, condone or remove. BACKFORD, CHRISTLETON, and BURTON churches rise up to the mind's eye as I write; and no doubt others will suggest themselves to the readers of THE SHEAF. Have the names of any of these vandals survived in the churchwardens' accounts, so that we might impale them for the benefit of, and as warnings to, posterity?

G. T.

[993] CHOLMONDELEY HOUSE, CHESTER.

Was there ever (I don't suppose there is now) a house in your old city bearing the above name, and if so, where? A family of the 'county standing' of the Cholmondeleys, of the allied houses of Cholmondeley and Vale Royal, must have had (one would think) their own city mansion, when it was a regular custom with the Cheshire gentry to pass part of their winters in Chester city.

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[994] ST. ANNE'S FRATERNITY, CHESTER.

I find the following MS. Receipt amongst some papers of an ancestor of mine, and shall be glad to get some elucidation of it, through the medium of THE SHEAF. It runs thus:—

"24th Feb'y, 1764. Recd then by the Order and for the use of Mr. John Green, of and from Robert Townsend, Esq'r., Mortgagee, the sum of sixteen shillings, for a year's Chief or Fee Farm Rent, issuing and payable out of several Messuages and premisses in the Foregate-street, within the City of CHESTER, part of the possessions of the late dissolved COLLEGES of ST. JOHN and the FRATERNITY of ST. ANNE, or one of them, within the said City, the estate of Benjamin Wright and others, which said Rent became and was due the Tenth day of October last past.

by me

Rent £10 : 6 : 0

ROB'T BAXTER.

Acquittance 0 : 0 : 4

Total £10 : 16 : 4

Endorsed on back "late Farralls."

Where was the above property situate, and when did it cease to be the property of the Fraternity?

Newton.

T. D-C.

Replies.

THE CYCLE.

[Nos. 805, 981.—Sept. 3, Jan. 7.]

From a memorandum of my grandfather's, I am enabled to give a List of the Members of the Cycle at the close of the last century. It will be seen that the club was composed of the leading aristocracy of the neighbourhood.

"CYCLE for 1795.

MEMBERS' NAMES.

Lady Patroness for the Year:

DOWAGER WILLIAMS WYNN.

R't. Hon. Earl Grosvenor

T. B. S. Boycott, Esq.

Lord Belgrave

J. Humberston Cawley, Esq.

Wm. H. C. Floyer, Esq.

Chas. W. W. Wynn, Esq.

Edwd. W. Lloyd, Esq.

William Leche, Esq.

Sir Thomas Hanmer, bart.

Watkin Williams, Esq.

Thos. Boycott, senr., Esq.

Thomas Crewe Dod, Esq.

Peter W. Davies, Esq.

Richd. Aldersey, Esq.

Philip H. Fletcher, Esq.

Thos. Apperley, Esq.

Sir Watkin W. Wynn, bart.

Frederick Phillipse, Esq.

Sir Foster Canliffe, bart.

Samuel Riley, Esq.

Rev. Ph. Puleston, D.D.

Gwyllym Wardle, Esq.

Henry E. Boates, Esq.

Rev. W. Whitehall Davies

Rev. H. W. Eyton

Edwd. Morgan, Esq.

Thos. Tarleton, Esq.

Thos. Cummings, Esq.

John Leche, Esq.

Richd. Puleston, Esq.

John Hill, Esq.

John Kynaston, Esq.

John Wynne, Esq."

Newton.

H.

[996] BISHOP PEFLOR.

[Nos. 880, 885, 910, 931, 971.—Oct. 29, Nov. 5, 19, Dec. 10, 31.]

It was a strange coincidence that the first numbers of the *Chester Courant* that ever came across me at far away Twickenham should contain notices of the two Bishops of Chester whom I have been taught to venerate, from earliest childhood, as amongst my forefathers. It is not of Bishop WILKINS now, but of the more recent Whig Bishop PEFLOR, concerning whom I would intrude my few words from "the Shires."

There was a discussion, of which I hope to see the result, concerning the *eldest* daughter of the Bishop. The same question had puzzled me, belonging to a non-genealogical family as I do, from whom I could now procure no assisting record.

The Bishop's *second* daughter, Mrs. BAYLEY, appears to have left no son; and is represented by the Moelys of Ancoats, and the Rasbothams, a family that gave your neighbouring county such a capital history. These well-known families, still ably represented, scarcely need your embalmment any more than the Herefordshire PEPLORS, still carrying on the male line, being descendants of the only son.

But I write now as one of the few representatives left of the *third* daughter, ELIZABETH. She was, as stated by your correspondent "P.M.H.," the wife of JOHN BRADSHAW, Esq., of Manchester; and I believe I am correct in adding that he was the last of that eminent Royalist and, alas! notorious Republican family also, that had been settled for some generations at the New Hall, Daroy Lever, near Preston. Their daughter Elizabeth, I believe also to have been the sole heiress representative of that branch (but I shall be very glad to be informed by being corrected). The late Canon Raines told me in a letter that she was married in October, 1760, at the Collegiate Church, Manchester, to my great-grandfather, Alexander Radclyffe Sidebottom, Esq., Benchet of the Middle Temple, of Sutton Court, Chiswick. He was the only son of the Rev. Samuel Sidebottom, Rector of Middleton, by Mary, daughter of Alexander Radclyffe, Esq., of Foxdenton Hall, representative of the Radclyffes of Ordsall Hall. This Mrs. Sidebottom, granddaughter of the Bishop, died at the comparatively early age of thirty, leaving issue—RADCLYFFE, now represented by his four daughters—Mrs. Bannister, Mrs. Walters, Mrs. Hopwood, and Lady Rawlinson, and their families; and ELIZABETH, who married William Roberts, Esq., of Abbey Orchard House, St. Albans; a legal authority, and of considerable literary repute in his own time, as editor of the *British Review*, and author of the *Life of Hannah More*, etc.

The only relic that we inherit, as far as I can at present find out, is a miniature of BISHOP PEPLOR, in the shape of a brooch set in brilliants.

CECIL W. B. W. RADCLYFFE ROBERTS.

Montpelier Row, Twickenham.

[997] COPPER MINES IN CHESHIRE.

[Nos. 939, 972.—Dec. 10, 31.]

Within the last 20 years a copper mine was worked on the south side of PECKFORTON HILLS, about midway between Bunbury and Bickerton. The yield, I understand, was not sufficient to pay; but it would be interesting if your scientific readers would cause enquiry to be made; for, some 60 years ago, a friend informs me, that some workmen's spades which were hid in a

ditch over night to save carrying them home, on the north side also of these hills, were found next morning, covered with copper deposited from the water in the ditch!

At the same time some enquiry should be made for a Mineral Spring, which proceeded from under Beeston Castle hill on the north side, and which was much frequented by persons living around as affording a healthy drink.

Not far from Beeston, and near to Spurstow, is a chalybeate spring, which was brought into much notice at the beginning of this century. The water having been analysed and found to be equal to the Cheltenham waters, some expense was gone to at the time in erecting bath houses; but for some reason they were allowed to go to decay, though I understand certain portions still remain standing.

It is said the landlord is opposed to the spring being brought into public use; else it would be an admirable site for a Spa and Cold Water Establishment, being so near to the railway, and to the invigorating Peckforton and Bickerton Hills.

R. O.

JANUARY 28, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Jan. 28.—Sir William Brereton defeated the Royalists near Nantwich.....	1643
„ 30.—Edward IV. granted his Confirmation Charter to Macclesfield	1465
„ 31.—Robert Fitz Nigel, 3rd Abbot of Chester, died	1174
Feb. 1.—Wallasey Church destroyed by fire	1859
„ 2.—Macclesfield Courier Newspaper, first Number published.....	1811
„ 3.—Chester Corporation ordered £500 to be raised towards fortifying the city...	1643

J. H.

Original Documents.

[998] WHITLEY AND COGSULL.

We select for publication to-day a Report from the Commissioners appointed by the Duchy Court of Lancaster, in 1612, to consider the proposal of the Copyholders of OVER WHITLEY and COGSULL, in the parish of Great Budworth, to convert their copyholds under the Duchy into freeholds in fee-farm.

Negotiations to that end had been going on for a lengthened period, yet, now that all seemed ripe for settlement, a hitch suddenly occurs in the programme.

The Document, which bears the original signatures of the Commissioners, comes, by the courtesy of Sir Philip Grey-Egerton, Bart., from the valuable archives of Oulton Park :—

"Our duties to yo'r ho : most humbly remembered. May it please the same to be certified, That at our meetinge together this p'sent daye at HALTON CASTELL, in the Countie of Chester, for thexecucon of his highnes Comission vnto vs directed out of the hon'ble Court of Duchy Chamber, touchinge the inquiry and certifying yo'r ho : of the mesuag's, Cotag's, tofts, lands, and ten'ts, rents, s'uo's, easm'ts and other things belonginge to his Ma'ties Copihould'rs of inheritance w'thin the Mano'r of WHITTLEIGH in the said Countie of Chester, who as they saye haue lately made their Composic'ons w'th yo'r ho : and his highnes other Comission'rs, for the purchase of their Copihoulds in fee farme.

There repaired vnto vs the Copihould'rs of the Mano'r of COGGESHULL in the said Countie of Chester, who intimated vnte vs that they did expect the said Comission to haue beene as well for the said Mano'r of Coggeshull as for Whitleigh, in respect the Composic'ion was concluded and agreed on at the same tyme and in the same man' that Whitleigh was : And to that end the said ten'ts were p'pared to showe Rentalls, Books, Court Boollles and surveyes readye to be p'ceeded w'th, in as dutifull and readie maner as the said ten'ts of Whitleigh : and humbly desyred that certificate might be made thereof, and their busines so p'fected that the might p'ceede w'th their assuranc's and paym't of their Composic'ons at such tymes and plac's as their neighbo'rs of Whitleigh did, who hitherto they haue accompanied in all matters of treatie and charge, as well for their gen'all towne tasks as otherwyse, and do consist of the verie same tenures and estates : And haue alreadye given securitie to his Ma'tie for paym't of their Composic'ons, as they of Whitleigh haue done.

But forsomuch as in the said Comission there is no menc'ion made of the said mano'r of Coggeshull at all (w'ch wee chiefly conceive to be the misprision of the Clerke that ingrossed the Comission, or the fault of the sollicit'r that p'oued it) we did forbear to take anie inquisic'ion vpon oath, or to depose anie Reeve, Bayliff, or Collect'r in the same, Onlie at the instance of the said ten'ts (beinge all but about fyve p'sons in number), wee received from them a survey conteyninge the like effecte of that taken for Whitleigh; all w'ch in substance wee knowe of our owne knowledg's (by the p'usall of books and evidenc's w'ch came to o'r hands) to be true, w'ch wee haue thought good to send herew'thall vnto yo'r ho :, humbly referringe the same to yo'r hon'ble considerac'ion. And so w'th remembrance of our humble duties, do take leave, from HALTON CASTLE the nyynth daye of June, 1612.

Ye'r ho : most humble at Com'andem't,

JOHN ASHTON.

THOM. NORCOTT :

ROGER KENTON, deputy to Raphe Ashton, Esquier, Bec'r."

Endorsed,

"To the Right ho : S'r Thomas Parrye, knight, Chauncello'r of the Duchye of Lancaster, and one of his Ma'ts most ho : pryvy Counsaill, and to the rest of the Counsell of the said Court."

Turning from this old Document to the pages of Sir Peter Leycester's *Antiquities of Bucklow Hundred*, 1673, we meet with the following references at pp : 237 and 388 to the outcome of this very Commission.

Under COGGESHULL he says :—

"At this day, 1666, Cogahull is possessed by these persons following, which were all bought of the king in Fee-farm Rent, 1612, being formerly Copy-holders to Halton."

Then follow the names.

Of OVER WHITLEY Sir Peter, in continuation, says :

"Formerly this town was Copy-hold Land to the Baron of Halton, until the same was bought out into Fee-Farm by Fealty and Suit of Court to Halton [&c.]. The King's Charter is dated the 17 day of December, 1612, remaining now in the custody of Richard Peacock, of Over Whitley, Anno Christi, 1666. The purchasers from the King. . . sold to every man his own Land.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[999] A CHESHIRE HUNTING SONG.

The following spirited verses were sung at the opening of the Hunter's Tower in DUKINFIELD, CHESHIRE, near Ashton-under-Lyne, 27th Feb., 1807, the day being very stormy. The author was FRANCIS DUKINFIELD ASTLEY, Esq., of Dukinfield Lodge adjoining, at that time the owner of the Dukinfield Estate. He died in 1825 under suspicious circumstances. The song is taken from the same gentleman's *Poems and Translations*, privately printed, London, 1819, 8vo.; my copy of which contains an inscription, "Miss Dunlop, with the Author's comp'ts. 1820." The "subtle fox" has long since deserted the places described in the fourth verse.

Air : *Ye Gentlemen of England*.

I.

Hark ! how with northern fury the gales around us blow,
And bran upon their angry wings the chase-forbidding snow,

What though from storms opposing, our hunting we forego,

Let our wine In goblets shine,
Though the stormy winds do blow.

II.

Whilst Bacchus holds his empire here, Diana sure will join,

And when we tell our gallant runs, we'll pledge her sports in wine:

For from her sports proceeding, health gives the ruddy glow,

Driving care And despair,
Though the stormy winds do blow.

III.

Should Venus hither lead her court and leave the Cyprian bower,

And love invite the blooming maid to grace this favour'd tower,

Then as from lips of beauty consenting accents flow,
The hail and rain May rage in vain,

And the stormy whirlwinds blow.

IV.

Who thinks of toil and danger, as o'er opposing rocks,

Deep vales, woods, heaths and mountains, we urge the subtle fox?

And when the sport is over, with joy we homewards go,

And the gay chase In song retrace,
Though the stormy winds do blow.

Stretford, Manchester.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

[1000]

THINGS I REMEMBER.

No. 11.

IMPROVEMENTS IN LOCOMOTION.

It may be allowed that the recollections of an old man, of what in his childhood he heard from even older men of that day, may have an interest to modern eyes and ears, and enable the young of the present to form a better idea of the habits of life in the past. This, at all events, being my impression, I fancy some of your modern readers will be interested to know that in my youth I learned from an old citizen and hairdresser, Mr. Hankey (formerly of Pepper Alley Row), that he remembered the goods traffic between Chester and Liverpool being chiefly carried on by a system of pack-horses. These, he said, when he was a boy, were to be daily seen standing along Upper Northgate Street and Liverpool Road, waiting to be hired and loaded. At that time there were no regular Stage Coaches on the road; and the first improvement in the mode of transit was by market boats on the Ellesmere Canal, which carried passengers and goods from the Canal Wharf by the river Basin to Ellesmere Port, and thence by transshipment in larger vessels for Liverpool.

My own earliest trip to Liverpool was in 1823, by coach to Woodside; and I crossed the Mersey, I remember, in a rowing boat, landing at a stair upon the old Pier-Head at Liverpool.

It requires some stretch of the imagination to think that all the travelling and traffic, up to 40 years ago, was by stage coaches or post-chaises; and to remember, as I do, that one-horse carriages, or 'flies' as they were called, were only established in Chester about 58 years ago!

I well remember, too, the first note of information I had of railway coaches being thought of: it was when I was quite a boy, some sixty years ago. A Birmingham merchant, named Hammond, called on my parents and told them, in my hearing, a great wonder. It was, he said, in serious contemplation in that town to construct a machine by which people could be carried along the roads, propelled by steam power instead of horses! "And then," said he, "we shall fly along the road, and no mistake!" Little did we any of us think, then, that the dream would so soon become a reality; and yet, ten years afterwards, I recollect being present to see the first train start between Liverpool and Manchester; and I saw the train arrive at the former place after the melancholy accident that terminated the valued life of Mr. Huskisson.

While turning over these odd memories of more than a half century old, the question naturally suggests itself, "What will be the next surprise in the way of locomotion? Will it be a really practical invasion of the aerial region?" Those who live long enough will see!

Newton.

T. D.-C.

[1001] CONFUSION OF PLACES FROM RESSEMBLANCE OF NAMES.

Sandon, in the co. Stafford, was anciently as often written Sondon as Sandon. This appears from the deeds of the family of Erdswick, which obtained the estate in the first part of the 14th century by an intermarriage with the heiress of Sir James Stafford, Knt., second brother of the then head of the great family of Stafford. *Sandon* has even been printed *Sondon*, for which see Ward's "Stoke-upon-Trent," Appendix xx. I go farther, and affirm that I have (although I cannot remember where) seen the same place written in ancient MSS. *Sonde*, which, when described as Erdswick property, I have always understood as meaning Sandon, near Stafford.

English counties have often names in common, and there are many common both to Cheshire and Staffordshire—e.g., Acton, Arley, Ashley, Aston, Barton, Basford, Bradley, Brindley, Broms, Broughton, Brereton, and so on with all the other letters of the alphabet. But although topographers are well aware of this fact, it does seem singular that so excellent and accurate an antiquary and topographer as the late Dr. Ormerod should, in his account of Kinderton (ed. Helsby, vol. 3, p. 187), have fallen into such a trap as not to see (for, if he *did* see, the fact surely called for notice) that the "Sampson Erdswicke de Sonde," to whose valuable transcripts of the Kinderton Charters

he there alludes, was really the well-known historian of Staffordshire, Sampson Erdsuick of Sandon, in the co. of Stafford, friend of Camden, Chetwynd, and Burton, and an original member of the Society of Antiquaries.

The mistake was venial indeed, for a manor of Sonde exists in Cheshire too, and not far from the ancestral estates there of the Erdsuick family. And we know that Sonde or Sound is not so far from Nantwich and Church Minshull; in which, in the 38th Elizabeth, the Calendar of Chester Records informs us that Sampson Erdsuick, who must have been our very man, did actually hold the twentieth part of a knight's fee by paying rent 24s. 2d., and rendering 3 barbed arrows to Sir Hugh Cholmondeley, Knt. But to hold property in Church Minshull was not to hold property in the Cheshire manor of Sonde. The Cheshire Sonde belonged of old to a family of the same name; from whom it passed, by the marriage of an heiress, to the Chetwodes. In 1662 it was in the Crown, and afterwards in the Staffordshire branch of the family of the Sneyds of Bishton. (See *Magna Britannia*, Cheshire, p. 175.)

That the Sampson Erdsuicks spoken of by Ormerod under Kinderton was really the antiquary cannot be doubted, for he was living at the date mentioned, 1600. He did occupy himself with the deeds of Venables of Kinderton, who called him "cousin," and he even compiled his pedigree, which assumes that he had mastered all the Kinderton Charters.

But why so many words? This library possesses a deed of Thomas Venables, Esquire, Baron of Kinderton, co. Chester, whereby he grants to his well-beloved cousin, *Sampson Erdsuick, of Sandon, co. of Stafford, "durante vita."* "in consideration of the great paynes, travell, and charges which he hath been at in setting down my descent or pedigree," one buck in summer and one doe in winter, yearly, out of his park, together with licence to hunt and kill deer therein, with any number of persons, at pleasure!

Reader, had any other Erdsuick, any *Sampson Erdsuick of Sonde, co. Chester*, anything to do with the Kinderton Transcript? Had the then Baron of Kinderton any other "cousin well-beloved" of the same name Sampson, in the reign of Elizabeth? Was he ever an antiquary, and did he, too, obtain the guerdon of hunting and killing deer in the park with any number of persons at pleasure?

The William Salt Library, Stafford. T. J. M.

Queries.

[1002] BURIED HORNS.

Some 40 years ago, when making an excavation in my yard in Queen-street, and when the workmen were about six feet deep, they came to a quantity of cows'

horns, between 2 and 3 barrows full; a similar find was afterwards made some few yards off in the garden. It is very probable there may have been in former times a Tannery there; but as horns were in those days equally valuable with skins, I cannot account for the deposit,—perhaps someone else may.

Query,—Was Queen Street at that time "Horn Lane," just as FRODSHAM STREET was called "Cow Lane?"
B. O.

[1003] MR. HANMER AND MR. DAVIS, OF FLINTSHIRE; AND MR. YARDLEY, OF CALCOTT.

While Warden of Manchester, the celebrated DR. DEE received a visit at that town from two Flintshire gentlemen, who either came to see the doctor out of curiosity, or to hold conversation with him on occult matters. The visit is thus entered in *Dee's Diary*, on Tuesday, 29th September, 1600:—

"Mr. Hanmer and Mr. Davis, gentlemen, of Flintshire, either four or five mile of Hawarden Castle, did visit me."

He also records a visit, on 28th Sept., 1597, from

"Mr. Yardley, of Calcott, in Cheshyre, about six myles wide of Chester, toward the Holt."

Who were they?

JOHN E. BAILEY.

Replies.

[1004] ROBERT LLOYD, GENT.

[Nos. 842, 966.—Oct. 1, Dec. 31.]

I have been hunting up this question of late, and the undermentioned particulars will probably exhaust all that can now be recovered relative to ROBERT LLOYD. As to his lineage, I have absolutely no trace: he was probably a man of inferior birth and social position to his wife. He crops up first before me on the day of his marriage—at Paddington Church, as I have already stated in *THE SHEAF*. His marriage certificate, still extant, runs thus:—

"November the second, 1655.

Wee hereby make knowne to whome this paper may relate, that upon the day and yeare above specified, Mr. ROBERT LLOYD and Mrs. MARY VERNY were joyned in matrimony in the parish church of paddington by

Anthony Dod, minister,
in the presence of William Browne, clerk."

Except the births of four children, and a few other circumstances of no public interest, I have nothing to record about either the husband or the wife, until the death of the latter; and even this, curious to say, only comes out in a roundabout way nearly a century after its occurrence! Among the family

papers of the Verneys has been preserved the following characteristic letter from the pen of the Rev. THOMAS CRANE, of CHESTER, a local antiquary of repute a century ago. He was for many years Second Master of The King's School in that city, in the palmy days of Head Master Vanbrugh, and he had probably had the son of Sir JOHN CHETWODE, to whom the letter is addressed, as a private pupil. He heads his letter, which I give verbatim, as follows :—

"An Inscription discovered in Chester Cathedral,
1776.

Sir John,

I am promised at Mr. Monk's office [the *Chester Courant*] that the advertisement shall appear in to-morrow's paper; and I hope it will be printed correctly. I have no person to recommend for Whitley; and I thank you for your intended favour. I rejoice to hear Mr. Chetwode is well, and I will write to him in a few days.

In new flagging the broad Ile of Chester Cathedral, an inscription in brass, almost worn out, upon a gravestone was accidentally disturbed by the workmen: when there appeared another inscription still legible on the reverse of the plate, of which the following is a copy :—

'HERE LYES INTER'D THE BODY OF MARY WIFE OF ROBT LLOYD OF THIS CITY GENT DAUGHTER TO S^r EDM'D VERNEY OF MIDDLE CLEYTON IN COM' BYOK'S T & B T STANDERBEARNE TO HIS MAJESTIE K. CHARLES THE JST, WHO DYED IN THE BEDD OF HONOUR IN THE BATTLE OF EDGE HILL, AN^O 1642, SHE DEPARTED THIS LIFE DECEM^R THE 9TH 1684, LEAVING BEHIND HER 2 SONS: & 2 DAUGHTERS, IN THE 56TH YEARE OF HER AGE.'

I am very certain I have taken the words literally correct with their peculiarities, as I had the plate itself carried from church to my own house; which I afterwards returned, not indeed to the right owner, but to the sexton.

The name Verney struck me, and as I am almost certain that the Baronet here mentioned must be ranked among E[arl] Verney's ancestors; if you favour me with his Lordship's address, I will send (unless you think it improper) another copy to his Lordship, who will be glad to find so heroic a death so honourably recorded, and be not a little proud of this epitaph, which I have rescued from oblivion. I have the honour to be, Sir John, your much obliged and most obedient servant,

T. CRANE."

Chester, July 15, 1776.

Addressed,

"To Sir John Chetwode, Baronet,
Oakley Hall, By Woore,
Shropshire."

The B T in the fourth line was probably intended to be G T [Great], as Sir Edmund Verney never attained to the rank of Baronet.

HENRY EVE.

HELLIERS.

[1005]

[No. 962.—Dec. 31.]

In a Sermon preached some twelve months ago by the Bishop of CHESTER on the state of the dead, he said the meaning of the word Hell was 'a covered place'; and therefore a few centuries ago the workmen who roofed houses with tiles, slates not being then in use, were called Helliars; and that in some histories of England, the rebel Wat Tyler was named Wat Helliars.

This may be considered as a postscript to your previous correspondent's remarks on the word Hell.

R. O.

[1006]

THE EARL OF FLINT.

[No 980.—Jan. 7.]

This was not an imaginary title "referred to in derision" as "H. S. A." suggests, but is one that the eldest sons of our Sovereigns had from time to time adopted in conjunction with that of Earl of CHESTER. PRINCE GEORGE, eldest son of George I., appears to have been the last to adopt it. He was created Earl of Chester and Flint, September 27th, 1714. If "H. S. A." will refer to Lord Campbell's *Lives of the Chancellors*, he will find the following in the history of Chancellor Jeffreys.

"It is said that shortly before the coming of the PRINCE OF ORANGE he was in such high favour of that he was about to be raised to an earldom. Some assert that the patent was prepared and ready to pass the great seal, and there certainly was extant about the middle of the last century a book entitled "Dissertatio Lithologia auctore Joanne Groenevelt Transilvano Daventriensi M. D. E. Coll. Med. Lond.," dedicated "Honoratissimo Domino D. GEORGIO, COMITI FLINTENSI, Vicecomiti de Wickham, Baroni de Wem, Supremo Angliæ Cancellario et serenissimo Jacobo Secundo Regi Angliæ a secretioribus consiliis —. If the Dutch Fleet had met with a storm he might have lived and died EARL OF FLINT, and then who can tell whether he would not have appeared in different colours to posterity?"

Perhaps the pasquinade "H. S. A." refers to may allude to this assumption, or rather presumption, of Jeffrey's. Will your correspondent give the title, date, &c., of the pasquinade?

HENRY TAYLOR,

Town Hall, Flint.

The unpopular Lord Chancellor Jeffreys, Baron of Wem, is reported to have had conferred upon him the title of EARL OF FLINT, and Viscount Wickham; but, that this creation was one of the latest acts of James II. before his abdication, and that the patent, if prepared, did not take effect.

Newton.

T. D.-C.

FEBRUARY 4, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Feb. 4.—Crewe Hall taken for the Parliament...	1644
„ 5.—A great part of the Causeway at the Dee Mills, Chester, broken down	1601
„ 6.—Alderman William Edwards appointed Colonel for the Parliament at Chester	1645
„ 7.—Thomas Gamull, a Cestrian born, chosen Recorder of Chester	1605
„ 8.—Sir John Bellot, third Baronet of Moreton, died, extinguishing the title.....	1714

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1007] CHESTER TRADE GUILDS.

These ancient Companies chartered, some of them by the Crown itself, others by the Mayor and Corporation, were powerful organizations at Chester in Tudor and Stuart times. Banded together for mutual protection; fired with a healthy dread of all foreign intruders; holding their meetings moreover in their own trade halls; and being in fact the veriest autocrats in their respective walks and pursuits,—the secrets and mysteries they were sworn faithfully to guard converted them into brotherhoods not very much unlike the freemasons of later times.

Not unfrequently the Orders enforced by these protectionist traders were in direct conflict, not only with the ordinances of the city, but even with the common law and statutes of the realm. These innovations seem to have reached their climax in 1528, when the conscript fathers of our old city took the offenders sharply to task, and vented their displeasure in the following Order:—

“Tempore HUGONIS ALDERSEY, maioris
Citt's Cestr' Anno r'r's henrici octavi,
xx'o.

“Yt no occupac'on shall make any order, Contrary to the comon welth, in any of their Companys w'thout Consent of ye maire, & to be vnder Citty Seale, on payne of s's, on halph to Sheriffs, ye other to ye Citty.

MEMORAND', that the ixth day of Aprill, in the xxi yere of the Reign of Kinge Henrye the eght, It was enacted and ordret by hugh Aldersey, mayre of the Cytie of Chester, & by the xxiiij'ti Aldermen, And by the hole counsaile of the Saide Cytie, that no man' of occupac'ons w'tin the Citie of Chester shall not make no ordin'no's Amongest them selues

cons'nyng the ther occupac'ons, Contrarye to the Comon welth of the Saide citie. And if They or any of them Any Such ordynances make, that it be not mayde Amongest their Selues w'tout the counsaile of the mayre of the Citie for ye tyme beinge, & of his brethern. And those ordn'no's to be vnder the Seall of Office, vpon the payne of forfeiture of xl's. as oft as it so can Be prouid, That is to wyt, the one haulfe therof Vnto the Sheriffs of the Seyde Citie, and the other half vnto the coman boxe.”

The Town Clerk of those days was, it is clear, but a sorry grammarian. Fancy old Lindley Murray's disgust had he chanced to fall in with the foregoing command “that no manner of occupac'ons shall not make no ordinances!” If “two negatives in English destroy one another,” what must three of such offenders do!

These once powerful Guilds have, I fear, sadly degenerated in modern times: most of them indeed are only kept up to enable their members to become recipients of the charity attaching to them by the will of the locally famous Owen Jones.

T. HUGHES.

[1008] LICENCE TO HUNT IN KINDERTON PARK.

A correspondent, “T. J. M.,” in last week's SHEAF, incidentally referred to a curious Cheshire Deed preserved in the William Salt Library, in Stafford. We thereupon requested him to oblige us with a careful transcript of the Document, and are thus enabled to-day to place it, as we believe for the first time, on permanent record. This quaint Deed is, he says, without endorsement, but bears on its recto, at the right hand corner, the name of *Cooke*; it came, with others bearing the same distinguishing mark, into Mr. Salt's possession, and from him, along with other treasures, to the Stafford Library above-named:—

“Be yt known unto all men by these presentes, That I, Thomas Venables, Esquier, baron of Kyndreton in the Countie of Chester, for and in consideration of the great paynes trouble and charges w'ch my well-beloved cosen Sampson Eardeawick of Sandon in the countie of Stafford Esquier hath bene at, in settinge downe my discent or pedigree, have geven and graunted and by these presentes do geve and graunt vnto my said Cosen Sampson Eardeawick one Buck in som'er and one doe in winter yerelie to be taken in my parke of Kynderton aforesaid of my gifte duringe the lief of the said Sampson Eardeawick. And further I geve authoritie and power to the said Sampson Eardeawicke and his sufficient deputie, during the lief of the said Sampson yerelie in the tymes of season and convenient, to go into the said parke, callinge the keeper or keepers thereof with them, there to hunt and kill the same deere and them to carrie awaie at his and their will and pleasure, w'th such convenient number of persons as shall like him or them for and about the doinge of the same, any act, restraint, comandement or other thinge by me made to the Contrary notwithstandinge. And moreover yf the said Sampson Eardeawicke

yearlie sometymes will not come himself for the same deere, Then I will that the keeper or keepers of the same parke for the tyme beinge, vpon a bill or l're signed with the hand of the said Sampson Eardeswiok concerninge the same, shall kyl and deliver from yeare to yeare to the bringer of the same l're or Bill the said som'er deere and wynter deere, w'thout anie restraint or gaynesayinge by them or any of them in any wise to be made or done. In wytnes whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and Seale the Nyne and Twentieth daie of Aprill in the nyne and Thirtieth yeare of the raigne of our Soueraigne Ladie Elisabeth by the grace of God Queene of England, ffraunce, & Ireland, defender of the faith.

THO: VENABLES."

The Document is sealed with red wax bearing the family crest—the wyvern with child in mouth, but without arrow or weir.

Thomas Venables, Baron of Kinderton, the grantor, was the son and successor of the Sir Thomas Venables who, with other English gentlemen, was knighted at Leith by the Earl of Hartford in 1544.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[1009] NEWTON (BY CHESTER) CENSUS, 1821.

The remarkable strides that have been taken within the last sixty years in the art of Census compilation cannot be better explained to the ordinary reader than by an examination of the official results of the Census of 1821 and of 1871: but I have before me a little yellow book consisting of sixteen pages duodecimo in MS., containing the Census of NEWTON by Chester in 1821, and it abounds in little lessons, which are sometimes as pleasant as they are at other times quaint.

William Deeley, Molly Greenwood, and Mrs. Lloyd were the three patriarchs of Newton when this little book was compiled; the former being 84 years of age; the second 75; and the last 74; and then we have Jane Crimes, Thomas Jones, and Mrs. Ayokbowm, aged 67 respectively; William Furber and Sarah Teggin, aged 66; Robert Teggin and Mrs. Lightfoot, aged 65; Nancy Spratt 65; John Burgess 63; and Mrs. Ratcliffe 62. Margaret Dodd was honest enough to avow her years at 59, and that of her son Charles at 21, and her daughter Kitty at 18: but three other females who dwelt with her could neither be frightened nor coaxed to give their ages, and they are accordingly bracketted together as "between 40 and 50. Mr. Henry Hesketh had a remarkable household about him, who would neither supply the Census taker with names nor ages, and it is thus described:—"One male between 60 and

70; one male between 30 and 40; one male between 20 and 30; one female between 50 and 60; and three females between 30 and 40." William and Elisabeth Deakin had a family of five children, four lads and a girl, but "they'd be hanged if they know'd the ages of the older ones;" and three of them are accordingly returned as between 5 and 10, one as 4, and the "wench, bless her sweet 'art," as 1 year old. But their names we cannot have, for "what cou'd it matter'n to the King as to how they was cau'd?"—and right stubbornly did Mother Elisabeth stand out, and so defy both King and Census-taker.

The William Deeley I have mentioned was, I am told, a whitesmith, who in his eighty-first year fell in love with a buxom widow (aged 47 in 1821) named Diokson; and in due time the happy pair were blessed with a little girl named Adah, who in 1821 is returned as aged 2. Deeley was very proud of this child, and always boasted how he would convert her "into the best whitesmith in England." He led the little thing about donned in a leathern apron, and unhappily taught her to drink; so that long before she had reached her teens, both the child and her father were laid together under the green sward, victims, I fear, in some measure at least, to "Britain's curse."

ANNE BROWN—mother to Messrs. William and Charles Brown—was living in 1821, at "the Cottage," and she is returned as aged 31; and as she only died in 1879, she had continued to live at NEWTON for eight and fifty years after that date, to see her sons grow into manhood, and some of their children married, and themselves the happy parents of other children. What a story she could have told of the NEWTON of former days, when four-in-hand coaches were passing to and fro along the Hooole-road; and lovers could visit the "Hollows" without being frightened to death by the shrill whistles of the puffing and smoky locomotives that have done so much towards destroying the beauties of that once sweet and rustic neighbourhood. She passed the even tenour of her widowed life in the old home where her children were born; and when her remains were reverently borne away to their last resting place, by her sons and grandsons, the old history of NEWTON by Chester may be said to have died with her; for the very men and women of 1821—whom she knew as residents there, had all been gathered to their fathers, and the place that once knew them so well shall know them no more for ever. Long before this nineteenth century will have reached its close, there will be no Newton by Chester for census takers to busy themselves with, for CHESTER itself will have swallowed it up in its own Municipal maw, and the very "Hollows" will have been sacrificed to the master builders' schemes for "civilising" that part of Cheshire by means of brick and mortar! Truly, we are at best but vanity of vanities, and our once loved homes are in short no better!

S.

Queries.

[1010] NOTES ON PRINTING AT CHESTER.

No. 2.

RANDLE HOLME'S *Academy of Armory*, 1688, bears for imprint "Chester, Printed for the Author," and contains the following lines "In Praise of that Ingenious, and Chargable Piece of Heraldry:—

Kind Reader do so much as cast your eye,
Upon this Precious Piece of Heraldry:
Here you may See, both High and Low their Armes,
Likewise of Honour, and Mechanick Terms,
And other Things, (I may make Bold to say,)
That ne'er saw Light until this present Day.
Of all the Books that hereto hath been Writ,
There's none of Heraldry compar'd to it.

T. TILLIER, Typog."

RANDLE HOLME at p. 484 of Book III. gives a description of arms for the name of TILLIER. In the same year, 1688, was issued a single sheet folio, entitled

"An account of a late Horrid and Bloudy Massacre in Ireland of several Thousands of Protestants; Procur'd and carry'd on by the L. Tyroonnel and his Adherents.

London: Printed for T. Tilliar, M.DC.LXXXVIII."

The *Academy of Armory* has, I believe, always been spoken of as printed at Chester, but was it really printed there, and if so, by whom? It seems to me too well printed for amateur work actually done "by the author." Was T. Tillier the printer of it? And if so, might not the press-work have been executed in London?

Oxford.

W. H. ALLNUTT.

[1011] A BALA BEAUTY.

In Yorke's *Royal Tribes of Wales*, printed and published by John Painter at Wrexham in 1799, I find the following literary tit-bit referring to the family of Brynker of Brynker. Writing from Brynker in 1755, according to Mr. Yorke's statement,—

"the good Lord Lyttelton, on his Welsh Tour writes to Archibald Bower, and says playfully,— 'But what Bala is most famous for, is the beauty of its women, and indeed I saw there one of the prettiest girls I ever beheld; but such is my virtue, that I have kissed none since I came to Wales, except an old widow lady, a sister of Mr. Brynker, at whose house I now lodge, and who is the ugliest woman of her quality in Great Britain; but I know a Dutchees or two, I should be still more afraid of kissing than her.'"

Mr. PHILIP YORKE adds as a foot note to this sally of Lord Lyttelton's,— "This gentlewoman [the young beauty abovenamed] is still living." Can any of your readers oblige me with the name, and any other interesting particulars, of this Welsh paragon? H. S. A.

Replies.

[1012] BROMBOROUGH OLD CHURCH.

[No. 140.—July 10, 1878.]

"Cambro-Briton," in his query on this subject, seems to have arrived at a false conclusion, viz., that there have been only *two* churches at BROMBOROUGH; but, if he will refer to vol. ii., page 430, of the New Edition of Ormerod's *Cheshire*, he will find an account of *three*. First, a very old one, remaining almost complete at the publication of the First Edition in 1819. This was replaced by a modern structure in 1828, some parts of the old building being used for the new: this, in its turn, gave way to the present church, designed by the late Sir Gilbert Scott, B.A.; which, however, was built, not exactly on the old site, but on a piece of land adjoining the south side of the old graveyard, and was consecrated by the late Bishop GRAHAM in 1864. The demolition of the 1828 structure, which was a very common-place edifice, is far less to be lamented than that of its venerable predecessor.

T. C. H.

Pembroke College, Cambridge.

[1013] SIR PETER PYNDAR.

[Nos. 141, 191, 247.—July 10, 31, Sept. 4, 1878.]

In Mr. P. H. FLETCHER'S possession (of Nerquis Hall) is the following Document:—

"Whereas the Ho'ble the Dep: Leif'ts of this County of Chester haue appoynted Vs, S'r PETER PYNDAR, Barr'tt, and JOHN HURLESTON, Esqr., who haue herevnto Subscribed Our Names, To finde a Militia horse with Arms and all other furniture for horse and Man, a horse Man's Coate, poud'r and Bullett, and all other things as by Law Required, to Ride in the Troope of S'r Phillip Egerton, Kn't,

Wee doe hereby declare our Submission there vnto, And for the better p'formance thereof haue agreeed and hereby doe Covenant and agree that Henceforth the s'd S'r PETER PYNDAR shall, from time to time when Legally therevnto Required, pay such Rider such daily pay, to gether with Mustar Master's pay, and powder and Bullett, as by Law directed. And that hee the Sayd JOHN HURLESTON, Esqr., shall at all times and as often as Lawfully therevnto Required finde a Sufficient horse and Ryder with all Sorts of Armes and furniture with horseman's Coate and what else the s'd Dep: Leif'ts shall Require and appoynt. Wittnesse Our hands and Seales the Sixth day of June, An'o Dom'i 1683.

Wittnesse

Pet'r Bark'r

Hen: Jackson.

©. PE: PYNDAR

© JOHN HURLESTON."

EDITOR.

[1014] INSCRIBED STONE IN DELAMERE FOREST.

[No. 344.—Nov. 6, 1878.]

Mr. Owen's note reminds me of an old Lancashire tradition with which I have been familiar from childhood, though I am unable to give the precise locality. "I say the tale as 't was said to me."

When King James I. was on his way, in 1603, to take possession of the throne of England, he saw,—I think in the neighbourhood of Hoghton Tower, where he knighted the sirlain of beef,—a large, heavy stone by the roadside, upon which was engraved—

"Turn me o'er, and I'll tell you plain."

With great difficulty, at the King's command, the stone was turned over, when the other side was found to read—

"Hot porridge makes soft buttercake;
So turn me o'er again."

His Majesty laughed heartily, and ordered the stone to be restored to its original position, that it might continue to pique the curiosity and enervate the exertions of future travellers.

This tradition has evidently a common origin with that mentioned by Mr. Owen. I do not gather from his note whether your correspondent means that he has actually seen the stone and its inscription: if so, it would appear to be the original,—unless there was more than one of the kind.

HERMENTRUD.

[1015] THE CYCLE.

[Nos. 806, 981, 995.—Sept. 3, Jan. 7, 21.]

I have referred to my printed list of the members of the Cycle for 1795, and it does not altogether correspond with that given by "H." in THE CHESHIRE SHEAF of this date: there are several names in that list which I cannot find, viz., Wm. H. C. Floyer, Esq., Richard Aldersey, Frederick Phillipse, John Wynne, and Thomas Boycott, senr.; but I find Robert Wynne, junr., Thomas Cholmondeley, William Humberston Cawley, Robert Aldersey, John Parry, Peter Whitehall Davies.

The oldest list of Members of the Cycle I could put my hand on is 1778.

MEMBERS.	Date on which their Cycle was to be held. Cycle held in the full moon.
Ellis Yonge, Esq.	Jan. 4, 1773.
Owen Wynne, Esq.	Feb. 1, "
T. H. Cawley, Esq.	Mar. 8, "
Bagot Read, Esq.	Apr. 5, "
R. H. Vaughan, Esq.	May 3, "
Rev. Philip Puleston.	" 31, "
John Puleston, Esq.	June 23, "
Th. Ll. Fletcher, Esq.	Aug. 2, "
Peter Davies, Esq.	" 30, "
T. Cholmondeley, Esq.	Sep. 27, "
Tho. Boycott, Esq.	Oct. 25, "

Philip Puleston, Esq.	Nov. 29, "
T. Apperley, Esq.	Jan. 24, 1774.
Thomas Eyton, Esq.	Feb. 21, "
George Hope, Esq.	Mar. 21, "
William Leche, Esq.	April 25, "
R. Parry Price, Esq.	May 23, "
William Wynne, Esq.	June 20, "
Watkin Williams, Esq.	July 18, "
Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart.	Aug. 15, "
Lord Grosvenor	Sept. 19, "
Hon. Richard Barry	Oct. 17, "
Hon. T. Smith Barry	Nov. 14, "
James Barry	Dec. 12, "
B. Pr. Thelwell, Esq.	Jan. 16, 1775.
George Taylor, Esq.	Feb. 13, "

Worthenbury.

T. H. G. P.

[1016] THOMAS PARNELL, D.D.

[Nos. 771, 806, 923, 946,—Aug. 6, Sept. 3, Nov. 26, Dec. 17.]

When I first asked for information respecting the last resting-place of this divine, I had no idea that there was any doubt as to the date of his death. 'It is a little remarkable, to say the least of it, that there should be any difficulty in fixing the date of the death of a man of some mark, although it occurred only 162 or 163 years ago. The "authorities" are about equally divided for 1717 and 1718. So much by the way.

In the course of my researches the other day I came across a short biographical notice of Parnell extracted from the well-known German Encyclopædia, the *Conversations-Lexikon* (Leipais), a translation of which you may consider worth reproduction:—

"Parnell, Thomas, English poet, born at Dublin, in 1679. He studied theology, and was nominated in 1705 to the archdeaconry of Clogher. He made from that time several journeys to England, where he attached himself to some of the most prominent members of the Whig party,—Addison, Congreve, and Steele. But the Tories having come into power towards the end of the reign of Queen Anne, he abandoned his old friends for Pope, Gay, and Arbuthnot. On the recommendation of Swift, he obtained the rich benefice of Finglass. The death of his wife in 1712, having destroyed his domestic happiness, he was so overcome with grief, that in order to drown his sorrow he gave himself up to all kinds of excess, until death carried him off in 1717. He wrote in prose and verse; his works showed both erudition and imagination, but only his poetry is remembered at the present day, and it is included if not among the most perfect, at least among the most agreeable specimens of English literature. Pope published a collection of Parnell's works in 1726. A volume of posthumous works also appeared in 1758, which was rather prejudicial than otherwise to his fame."

A. A.

FEBRUARY 11, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Feb. 12.—John Pearson, 15th Bishop of Chester, born at Snoring, Norfolk	1612
„ 13.—Sir John Werden, of Chester, second Baronet, died, extinguishing the title	1758
„ 14.—Lord Byron's forces routed at Nantwich by Sir William Brereton	1644
„ 17.—St. Bridget's Old Church, Chester, repaired, and Bridge-street widened at that point	1786

J. H.

Original Documents.**[1017] THE BLUE GIRLS' SCHOOL, CHESTER.**

Some account of the old institutions of Chester may be interesting to the readers of THE SHEAF. I send you the first of a few extracts taken from the Original Minute Book of the "BLUE GIRLS' SCHOOL," founded in 1718. Its appearance in THE SHEAF will have served two good purposes if it induce a few more friends of education to give their countenance and support to the school.

The "Foundation Charter" so to speak, occurs on the first page of the volume, and is in the following terms:—

"Whereas it is evident to common Observation that the growth of Vice & Debauchery is greatly owing to the gross ignorance of the principles of the Christian Religion, especially among the poorer sort; and Whereas Christian Virtue can grow from no other Root than Christian Principles: Wee, whose names are under written, being touched with zeal for the honour of God, the Salvation of Souls, and the promoting of the Christian Knowledge, have actually paid in hand, and do promise to pay yearly during pleasure, by four equall payments—viz., at Candlemas, May Day, Lammas, and All Saints—such respective Sums as wee have hereunto subscribed, for and towards setting up a SCHOOL within the City of CHESTER for teaching poor girls (whose Parents can afford them no Education) to read and write and repeat and understand ye Church Catechism, and to sew, knitt, and spin, according to ye Rules and Orders to be agreed upon by the Subscribers for ye management of ye said SCHOOL.

Witness our hands the ninth day of August, 1718.

Mrs. Gastrell, Bishop's Lady	Mrs. Wrench ye Milliner
Mrs. Thane	Mrs. Parker ye Mercer
Mrs. Dod	Mrs. Starkey, Widow
Lady Grosvenor	Alderman Hodgson's Wife
Lady Meredith	Alderman Bingley's Wife
Lady Otway	Mrs. Martha Cowper
	&c., &c., &c.

Newton.

H.

[1018]

THE HENRYs.

Some reference having been made to both PHILIP and MATTHEW HENRY in THE SHEAF, I venture to send the brief but interesting account, written by PHILIP HENRY in one of his Diaries, of his Family and himself. It seems rather singular, that in neither the Life of Philip or Matthew has it been re-produced, but merely referred to, for the authentication of some fact, as "Original MSS." This original Diary is still extant, and in the possession of PHILIP HENRY's lineal descendant, Mrs. LEE, of Redbrook, near Broad Oak. The following is a copy:—

Anno Domini

1590.

July 20. My Father Mr. John Henry was born near Neith in Glamorganshire, at a place called Britains Ferry.

1599.

Oct. 19. My deare Mother Mrs. Magdalen Rochdale was baptized at the Parish of Martin in the Fields, London.
Daughter of Henry Rochdale.

1623.

Dec. 10. They were married.

1624-5.

Jan. 27. My Sister Cicily was borne.
Thursday.

1626-7.

Feb. 23. My Sister Anne was borne.
Thursday.

1629.

March 28. My Sister Katherine was borne.
Saturday.

Anno Domini

1631.

Aug. 24. I was borne at Whitehall, Westminster.
Wednesday.

Witnesses at my Baptisme were the
Earl of Pembroke—Philip.
The Earl of Carlile.
The Countesse of Salisbury.

1634.

July 22. My Brother John was borne.
Tuesday.

1636.

Aug. 1. My Brother William was borne.
Monday.

1638.

June 24. My Brother John dyed.
Sunday.

Aug. 24. My Brother William dyed.
Friday.

Anno Domini
1640.

June 26. My Sister Mary was borne.
Friday.

1642.

Mar. 28. My Sister Sarah was borne.
Monday.

1644-5.

March 6. My dear Mother departed this life be-
Thursday. tween the hours of twelve and one in the
morning, and Lyes interred in Margaret's
Church, Westminster.

Oct. 6. I was admitted Kings Scholar at West-
minster.

Anno Domini
1647.

April 14. The Lord was graciously pleased to bring
or y'r me home effectually to himself by means
abouts. of my School-Master, Mr. Richard Busby,
at the time of solemn preparation for the
Communion then observed.

The Lord recompence it a thousand
fold into his bosom !!

[There is a Painting in Christ Church Coll: Oxford,
of Dr. Busby and his Pupil Philip Henry.]

May 17. I was chosen away from Schools to Ch.
Ch. in Oxford.

Mr. Underwood was my Tutor.

The Earl of Pembroke at my coming
downe gave me 10 pound.

A seasonable mercy in regard of some
straits whereinto God in his Providence
had brought my deare Father.

Dec. 15. I came to Oxford.

Anno Domini
1648.

May 14. I was admitted Student of the Colledge
by Doct. Hammond, then Sub-Dean, Dr.
Fell, Deane & Vice-Chancellor.

Shortly after was the Visitation by
Authority of Parliament, which changed
the face of the University; many were
turned out that refused to submit, and
others put in their places.

Dr. Edward Reynolds, Dean of Ch. Ch.

Anno Domini
1649.

Jany. 30. Charles the 1st was beheaded at White-
Tuesday. hall. I saw him executed.

Kingly Government laid aside, and the
nation molded into form of a Common-
wealth.

[In Sir J. B. Williams' *Life of Philip Henry*,—Foot
Note, p. 18, is given another account of this, viz.—

"On the day of his execution, which was Tuesday,
Jan. 30, I stood amongst the crowd in the street,
before Whitehall Gate, where the Scaffold was

erected, and saw what was done, but was not so
near as to hear any thing. The blow I saw given,
and can truly say, with a sad heart!"

Anno Domini
1651.

Feb. 7. I was presented Batchelour of Arts in the
University

and determined the lent following.
The Lord raised me up Friends that helpt
mee out in the expences—a seasonable
mercy.

Anno Domini
1652.

Feb. 28. My dear Father, Mr. John Henry, died at
his House in Whitehall,—a very great
affliction both to myself and Sisters,
especially to the two little ones.

The Lord provide for us!

June 8. Being in great straits it pleased the Lord
to move the heart of the young Earl of
Pembroke, who bestowed upon me the
sum of 10 pounds—a seasonable mercy.

Dec. 10. I proceeded Mr. of Arts.

Anno Domini
1653.

Jann: 9. I preached my first Sermon at South
Hinessey in Oxfordshire. The Text, John
3. 34. The Lord make use of me as an
Instrument of his glory, and his Churches
good in that calling.

Anno Domini
1653.

Sep. 30. By the means of Mr. Francis Palmer I
came to Emerall in Flintshire, to Judge
Puleston, to teach his sons and to preach
at Worthenbury.

Stipend £80 p'r annum
The Lord be with me there."

The original Diary is about 4in. by 3in. The —
are inserted by me to indicate the end of the pages.
This will account for "Anno Domini" being repeated.
Philip Henry wrote a very small neat hand.

Tushingham Hall.

B. LL. V.

Notes.

[1019] THE REVOLUTION OF 1688.

I have in my collection one of the originally printed
copies of the "CHESHIRE DECLARATION in favour of
William of Orange," which I think will be found
deserving a quiet corner in THE SHEAF. It runs
thus:—

"The DECLARATION of the Lord Lieutenant,
the High Sherriff, Deputy Lieutenants, Justices
of Peace, Commission Officers of the Militia, and

other Protestant Gentlemen in the County Palatine of Chester, City of Chester and County of the same, the 17 of December, 1688.

"**W**E being heartily and Zealously concerned for the PROTESTANT RELIGION, the LAWS of the Land and the LIBERTIES and PROPERTIES of the Subject, cannot (without being wanting to our Duty) be Silent under those Calamities wherein late prevailing Popish Councils have miserably involved these Kingdoms: And do therefore Unanimously resolve to apply our selves to his Highness the PRINCE of ORANGE, who with so great Kindness to these Realms, so vast Expence, and such Hazard to his Person, hath undertaken, by endeavouring to procure a Free Parliament, to rescue us with as little Effusion as possible of Christian Blood from the Eminent Dangers of POPY and SLAVERY. And we do hereby Declare, That we will with our utmost endeavours Assist his Highness in the Obtaining such a Parliament wherein our LAWS, LIBERTIES and PROPERTIES may be secured, the Church of England in particular, with due Liberty to Protestant Dissenters; And in general the PROTESTANT RELIGION and INTEREST may be Supported and Encouraged to the Glory of God, and the Happiness and Reputation of the Established Government in these Kingdoms. In the mean time We will endeavour to preserve as much as in us lies the Peace and security of this City and County, by taking care to Dis-arm all Papists, and to secure all Jesuites and Romish Priests within the same; And if there be any thing more to be performed by Us for promoting his Highnesses Generous Intentions for the Publick Good We shall be ready as Occasion requires to Contribute Our best Endeavours.

DERBY."

The "Declaration," as above, is in the form of a hand-bill, measuring 8 by 5½ inches; and, though no printer's name appears, I should judge it to be a production of the Chester Press. T. HUGHES.

[1020] PROFITABLE PIGS.

Is not the following worth preserving? I copy it from the *Salopian Journal* for November 21st, 1804:—

"A sow and ten of her litter, of the long-eared breed, the property of Mr. Eardeley, were lately sold at WHISTONSON [Wistaston] Mill, in Cheshire, for £144. They were all of one litter, and supposed to weigh 30 score each."

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

Queries.

[1021] BOBELL, OR BOWBELL.

Occasionally there has cropped up, in my reading of old manuscripts referring to CHESTER, the mention of *Bobell*, and of payments for sounding it. Does it

refer to the ancient Fire-bell of the city, now no longer in existence I understand,—and if so, why was it so called? NOAH.

[1022] A CRAPE SUIT.

In the Accounts of the Barber Surgeons' Company, Chester, for the years 1716 and 1717 I find the following entries:—

1716. Sept. 22. Paid for a coffin and a crape suit and drink at ye funeral of Br. Hickock 01 : 02 : 01

1717. April 22. Spent at ye funeral of Brother Wilbrahm and p'd for his coffin 00 : 19 : 00

Can the reference to the "crape suit" be explained? By whom was it to be worn? Y. O. M.

Replies.

[1023] FLINT, COLESHILL, AND HAWARDEN.

[Nos. 483, 510.—Jan. 22, Feb. 4, 1879.]

I am not able to answer the question asked concerning the dowry of Queen Katherine of France; but that FLINT has been granted to a royal person, the following entries bear witness. The wording of the second is singular, since it is difficult to see how the result indicated could well have been avoided:—

"1333. Mar. 19. Grant to Edward the King's son of the county of Chester, and the castles of Chester, Rothelan [Rhuddlan], and Flynt. (*Rob. Par.*, 7 E. III., Part 1.)

1338. Confirmation of grant made Mar. 18 [sic], anno 7, to Edward our son, of the duchy of Cornwall, the castles of Chester, Beeton, Rothelan, and Flynt, and the lands of Ingelfeld,—to him and his successors, Kings of England. (*Ib.*, 12 E. III., Part 3.)

1399. Oct. 24. Henry Percy [Hotspur] created Constable of the castles of Flint, Chester, Coneweye, and Carnarvan; also of Baumburgh Castle. (*Ib.*, 1 H. IV., Part 4.)

Balham.

HERMENTRUDE.

[1024] THE CUSTOM HOUSE, CHESTER.

[No. 859.—Oct. 15.]

The earliest mention I have seen of the Chester CUSTOM HOUSE dates back to about the close of the 16th century. William Smith, Rouge Croix, a native of Old Haugh, in this county, and one of the authors of the *Vale Royal*, says that the Custom House in his time was within the walls of Chester Castle:—

"Which castle (he writes) is a place having privilege of it self, and hath a constable; the building thereof seemeth to be very antient. At the first coming in, is the gate-house, which is a prison for

the whole county, having divers Rooms and Lodgings: And hard within the Gate is a House, which was some times the *Exchequer*, but now the *Custom-house*."

WEBB, the second and later of the two compilers of the *Vale Royall*, makes no mention of the Custom-house at the Castle: it had probably before that time been removed into the city.

The following reference is rather obscure; but I take it that it refers to the CUSTOM HOUSE most of us older citizens remember, on the site of the present building in Watergate-street, and which we know was erected in 1633.

I find in the *City Deeds Index*, at the Town Hall, a record of the Corporation having granted (page 15) a

"Lease, 22nd Feb. 1705, to John Wilson, of 'All that piece of Land lying in Gray Friars Lane, 26 yards in length, and 2 in breadth, and adjoining on the South side thereof to His Majesty's Custom House, and on the East to the Garden Wall of Mr. Wright, for 99 years, if 3 lives lived, and 21 years, at a rent of One Shilling.'"

T. HUGHES.

[1025] CHEYNEY HALL, NANTWICH.

[Nos. 929, 969.—December 3, 31.]

I am personally almost a stranger to Nantwich: but unless *Mason's Lane* or *Love Lane* be synonymous with *Beam Street*, the locality of CHEYNEY HALL must have been changed at some period in the 17th or 18th century: for, in the curious Will of ROGER MAINWARING, of Nantwich, gent., proved at Chester, May 1, 1590, I find the following paragraph:—

"Unto my sonne John M. twoe howses lyinge together in the Beamestreete, the one called Cheynye Halle, wherin Mr. Edwards the surgeon dwelte, and the other in the tenure of my aunte Alice Crockett, wydowes, beinge p'cell of the lands purchased of my cosen Henrye Manwarings of Chester."

It is clear, therefore, that there was a *Cheyney Hall* in Beam-street in 1590, and evidently a house of some pretensions, too.

G. T.

[1026] CHOLMONDELEY HOUSE, CHESTER.

[No. 993.—January 21.]

Your readers know that in early days our county families not unfrequently retained residences in our ancient city for the winter months, that they might enjoy the gaieties and re-unions of our local metropolis. Many of these residences and their early occupants are well known to the local antiquary. Your present correspondent well recollects being told by the late Marquis of Cholmondeley that the large mansion now occupied by Mr. Hewitt, coachbuilder, was the town residence of his family. The part of this building now let to the CHESTER YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, forms part of the original mansion; and the committee,

to perpetuate the memory of the former possessors, adopted this name to mark the home of that very useful Institution.

Newton.

T. D.-C.

I have always been given to understand Cholmondeley House was the one now occupied by Mr. Hewitt, the coachbuilder, in Northgate-street. After the Cholmondeleys gave it up, it was a school kept by the Rev. James Winfield, a Minor Canon of the Cathedral. Lords Hill and Combermere went to school here,—such the old "P. M." gave me to understand when speaking of his early days in Chester.

D. C.

[1027]

WHITLEY AND COGSHULL.

[No. 998.—Jan. 28.]

I take the liberty of stating that when WHITLEY Reed was enclosed, a few years ago, a translation of King James the First's letters patent, dated 17 Dec., 10 Jac. I., converting the copyholds of those townships into freeholds, was produced, and proved of the greatest use in the division of the Reed; which once bred only snipes and turf, but now grows capital crops of corn and other produce, and is intersected by an excellent road, instead of being almost impassable by reason of swamps. The translation which was made by me from the original letters patent in 1833 is still in my possession, and occupies 54 pages.

Orford Hall.

W. BEAMONT.

[1028] CONFUSION OF PLACES FROM RESEMBLANCE OF NAMES.

[No. 1001.—Jan. 28.]

Your correspondent T.J.M. will find sufficient about Sampson Erdswick of *Sandon* in vol. iii., 2nd ed. of ORMEROD, p. 224. To those having some acquaintance with the history of this county (for whom chiefly Mr. Ormerod wrote), there can be no mistake as to the existence of a second Sampson Erdswick connected with Cheshire as described. The quotation marks used by Mr. Ormerod, on page 187, I should have thought were ample to guard a reader from supposing that *Sonde* could be otherwise than a contraction for *Sondon*, or, at the most, an error of the person who wrote it. But your correspondent's communication is not the less interesting on that account.

Z.

FEBRUARY 18, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Feb. 18.—Chancellor Peploe appointed Roger Comberbach his Deputy	1745
" 19.—Thanksgiving Sermon, on the Capitulation of Chester City, preached before the House of Commons	1645

- „ 20.—Parliamentary Forces defeated on Tilston Heath..... 1643
 „ 21.—Dr. John Graham, late Bishop of Chester, born..... 1794
 „ 22.—Skirmish between the Royalists and Roundheads at Tiverton, Tarporley.. 1642
 „ 23.—The Rev. John Stones, A.M., the Chester Antiquary, died..... 1735
 „ 24.—Parry's Coach Manufactory, Chester, burnt down for the third time 1823
 J. H.

Original Documents.

[1029] COL. THOMAS DAVIES OF GWYSANNEY.

By the courtesy of Mr. E. BREESH of Portmadoc compiler and editor of *The Kalendars of Gwynedd*, I am enabled to place on record in THE SHEAF the following Commission from King Charles I. to Col. Thomas Davies, of Gwysanney, to raise a Regiment of five hundred men in support of the Royal Cause. The history of the Civil War in Denbighshire and Flintshire has had as yet no competent editor; but it will be found, when the story comes to be properly set down, that North Wales was not behind the best of the English counties in the sacrifices it made, and the brave blood it lost, in that great national struggle.

“CHARLES R.

Charles, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To our trusty and welbelovéd Thomas Davies, Esq., Greeting. Know yee and all men els whoms'r it may concerne That wee, reposing great trust and confidence in your ability diligence and fidelity in Martiall affayres, doe by theis p'sents constitute and appoint you Colonell of one Regiment of five hundred ffoote and Dragoons. And wee doe hereby give you full power and authority for Us and in our name to raise imprest and reteyn the said Regiment, consisting of five hundred men, Voluntiers or otherwise raised or to be raised by sound of Drum or any other way in any of our Dominions, for the defence of our Royall Person, the Two Houses of Parliament, the Protestant Religion, the Lawes of the Land, the Liberty and propriety of the Subiect, the Privileges of Parliament, and the defence of our Counties of Denbigh and Flint. And them so raised to bring together and imploy in our Service for the defence of these our said Counties. And further in the absence of Ourself or our Lieutenant Generall or Generall of our Horse, Wee doe hereby give you full power and authority to dispose them into Companies, and to nominate constitute and appoint Captaines and other fitting officers over them, whome Wee require you to obey and observe as their Colonell. And you likewise to obey observe and follow such orders and directions as you shall from

time to time receive from Ourself, Our Lieutenant Generall, Generall of Our Horse, or other your Superior Officer according to the Discipline of Warre. Given under our Sign Mannall at our Court at Oxford this Nineteenth of July 1643. In the Nineteenth yeare of our Reigne.”

Col. DAVIES, who was Constable of HAWARDEN CASTLE in 1643, married his cousin Dorothea, daughter of Robert Morgan of Golden Grove, near Flint, and, surviving the dangers of the War, died during the Protectorate, in March 1655.

T. HUGHES.

[1030] PRINCE RUPERT AND HAWARDEN CASTLE.

The dashing Prince RUPERT, nephew of Charles I., was early and actively engaged in the Civil War; and, like Cromwell and Hampden on the other side, seldom went into battle without giving excellent cause to be remembered by the enemy. But it is with the preparation for the campaign, rather than with his conquests, that I have to deal to-day.

On the 8th of January, 1643, as appears from the Sandford copy of his royal Uncle's commission to him from the Court at Oxford, he was appointed under the sign manual “our Capitaine Generall vnder vs of all our forces then raysed or being with in our Counties of Worcester, Salopp, Chester, Lancaster, Denbigh, flint, Movatgomery, Carnarvan, Merioneth, and Anglessey, or any of them, &c., &c.”

Acting under this Commission, the Prince addresses to the High Sheriff of FLINTSHIRE the following Order for the sustentation of Hawarden Castle:—

“These are to will and require you, upon sight hereof, out of the moneys by you receaved or to bee receaved as part of the loane money vpon Privy Seales and Subscriptions in the Counties of Denbigh and flynt, to pay to the Hands of Colonell John Marrowe for the use of S'r William Neale and towards the victualling and furnishing with Armes and Amunition of the Castle of Hawarden, in the County of flynt, the sune of one hundred pounds; which hundred pound and what other moneyes of the Kinges Ma'tie, or of the said S'r William Neale disbursed by him for the service of that Garrison, is to bee accounted for before S'r William Bellenden, Commissary Generall, or such Auditor or Auditors as he shall appoint. ffor the payment of which one hundred pounds this shall bee yo'r Warrant. Dated the Nynth of June, 1644.

To the High Sherriffs of the respective Countyes of Denbigh and flynt and either of them. Charles Walley, Alderman of Chester. Humphrey Lloyd, of Bersham, in the County of Denbigh, Gent., and every of them, and all others whom these may concerne.

Rupert.

12 Junij., 1644.

Rec'd by me, Colonell John Marrowe, from Robert Davies, Esq., High Sherriff of the County of flynt, the sume of fifty pounds in pursuance of this warrant, I say rec'd the sume of 50l.

JOHN MARROW."

The gallant Col. MARROW was killed at Croughton Hall, Cheshire, two months afterwards, viz., on the 18th of August in the same year 1644.

This Document also comes, like the one immediately preceding, from the collection of Mr. Breese of Portmadoc, the well known Welsh antiquary.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1031]

CHESHIRE DIALECT.

(Completed from Vol. I.)

SESS. A term applied to watering straw to prepare it for thatch.

STREA. Straw. In the early part of the present century, when yellow "post-shays" were in vogue, the old ostler of the White Bear Inn, in Middlewich, was overheard indoctrinating his young assistant in the value and use of straw—"Yo mun always put plenty of strea i'th bottom o'th shay; then, when the gentlefolk drop a shilling or a sixpence, it doesna jinker. I'ne fand mony a one i'th strea."

SWILKER. The motion of liquid in a barrel not quite full.

SWOP. To "chop" or exchange.

TAKING. A person in a state of excitement or agitation is said to be "in a great taking."

THOUGHT. A diminutive quantity. "Just a thought more."

TO-MORROW-CUM-NEVER is synonymous with the Parliamentary phrase "this day six months."

TOP-SIDE of a tree is the side of the stem which has been exposed to the north when growing, and which some consider injuriously affects the quality of the wood on that side.

TOUCH-AND-GO. Tickle. A narrow escape.

T'oud. The old. "T'oud wenoh."

TURN OVER, is to think over well, or examine thoroughly; to look at a thing all round.

UD. Would. "Her milk threw up a top as ud bear a mouse to run over." Said by a man in praise of his cow.

VARMINT. "Loo thee, Sal; see how'th sun mae the varmint creep."

WELL-A-DAY. A term of sympathy often used to a child in trouble. Presenting an old man with a paper of tobacco I had picked up, and observing it was "an ill wind," &c., he added "but it was well-a-day to them as lost it."

WENCH. A girl. "Hoo's buta wench, and wenches is but woid."

WHACKER. Something large; a whopper.

WHISKET. It is said of a forgetful person, "He's as windy as a whisket."

WITHY. Willow.

YALLER. Yellow. A woman who had been suffering from jaundice described herself to me as having been "as yaller as a merry-mouse"—the yellow mice that Italians carry about in cages.

YARNS. Heronshaw Hall, in Rudheath, is commonly called "Yarnshaw" Hall.

Tushingham Hall.

B. LL. V.

[1032]

RAISING THE DEVIL.

Among the Cheshire Broadside collected during a long life by the late EDWARD HAWKINS, Esq., Keeper of the Antiquities in the British Museum, was the following curious fly-sheet relating to a catastrophe at TRANMERE, resulting from an impious and infamous piece of folly there enacted. There is no date to the Broadside, but it may be presumed from the type, paper, &c., to come within the years 1780-1820:—

"Full and particular account of the
Awful Visitation of
THE DEVIL

and Six of his Monsters!!

Which appeared to a party of Young Women foolishly and wickedly calling upon them to appear in the form of their intended Bridegrooms, at TRANMERE, on ALL HALLOW EVE.

Sorry are we to record another of those scandalous and wicked practices of young people calling upon the Devil to appear unto them in the form of their intended husbands or wives. There have been for these many years back fatal accidents happening on the night of All Hallowed Eve, through this improper conduct.

It is really astonishing that, in this enlightened age we are in, people cannot employ their time, a thing so precious in this world, in trying to obtain the happiness of the next, instead of drawing down the just judgment of God upon their wicked heads, through their own impiety. Had the persons to whom we are alluding, instead of thus wickedly amusing themselves on the fatal night, have read a

few chapters in the Bible, they would, in all probability, have escaped the judgment which has befallen them. The following are the particulars:—

Yesterday being the Eve of All Saints, Sarah Mosely and Ann Lewis, living at service in the house of Mr. Harris, TRANMERE, invited several of their acquaintances to their master's house to spend the evening, having gained his consent on the evening previous.

The master and mistress retired to rest about eleven o'clock, leaving the servants and their company to enjoy themselves as long as they thought proper. After perhaps drinking freely of the juice of grapes, besides other little nick-nacks in that way, they consented to try a scheme, the intention of which was to endeavour to see the faces of their intended lovers. They accordingly commenced by laying a table out with all the necessaries of life on it, with 5 chairs round it (there being five of them in company): then they read the Lord's Prayer backwards, at the conclusion of which they hoped in the name of his Satanic Majesty, that their intended bridegrooms would come and seat themselves at the table! No sooner had they uttered this, than their wish was complied with: it being about the hour of twelve, the doors flew open, and in an instant five ghastly looking gentlemen were seated round the table!!

The young women's fright was now heightened to a considerable degree at the sight of so awful a set of beings. They sat for little more than half an hour, when they arose, made their "obedience," and disappeared as they came. Sarah Mosely was so much frightened that she died this morning, and little hopes are entertained of the recovery of the remainder."

I have been unable to trace the burial of this wretched woman: the Rev. G. E. FRILDEN, Rector of Bebington, in which parish Tranmere is situated, informs me she was not buried there. G. T.

Queries.

[1033] "HOLMEIANA," BY JOHN BROSTER OF CHESTER.

At the end of the sixth edition of "A Walk round the Walls and City of Chester," by John Broster, published about 1822, is the following advertisement:—

"Proposals for publishing by Subscription the HOLMEIANA, or Biographical Notices of the three Randle Holmes's, Aldermen and Antiquaries of the City of Chester, from Anno 1592 to 1688; by John Broster, with a descriptive account of their collection of Manuscripts, which were first purchased by the Earl of Oxford and afterwards by the Trustees of the British Museum. These documents from the

earliest period of British Annals, combine the most curious and interesting information, relative to the HISTORY, PROPERTY, and PEDIGREE of the Nobility, Gentry and Families in Cheshire and North Wales. Professional Men, who know the importance of the Collection, will often find this an useful work of reference, in cases of disputed property. The work is in great progress, and will in the course of this year be ready for publication. It will be a small impression, printed in octavo; of large paper only 30 copies—of small 150."

Was this book ever published, and if not, is it known where Mr. Broster's MSS. are now preserved? A good account of the Randle Holmeses and their collections would make a very interesting volume.

J. P. EARWAKER.

Withington, near Manchester.

[1034] THE PANCAKE BELL.

On SHROVE TUESDAY, a lady living on the outskirts of TARVIN called upon me, and in the course of conversation I asked her if she had left word with her servants to get the pancakes ready by the time she returned? "I have no need to do that," said she, "for at eleven o'clock I heard our parish factotum ringing the Pancake Bell vigorously, as I drove through the village. He lets nobody forget *this* day, I assure you!" Are there many parish churches in Cheshire or its Welsh borders where the custom of "ringing the Pancake Bell" is still kept up? A list of such would not be out of place in THE SHEAF.

G. T.

[1035] ANCIENT IRON WORK.

Can your readers refer me to any good and early specimens of iron or other metal work existing still in Cheshire, or the counties on its Welsh border? I should think it probable that, in the older churches and mansions of the district, many interesting fragments of our ancient craftsmen's work in iron may be lying hidden, perhaps even neglected by the lawful custodians of such relics. A record of any such in the columns of THE SHEAF would be of service to future students of the history and growth of the British arts, as it would at the present moment be to me.

H. S. A.

[1036] THE REV. MR. BOURDEN OF CHESTER, 1741.

In the Registers of Taxal, a small parish on the extreme eastern edge of the county of Chester, and bordering upon Derbyshire, is this entry—

"1741, May 24, the Rev. Mr. Bourden of Chester, buried."

Can any of your readers state who this gentleman was, or how he came to be buried so far away from Chester?

J. P. E.

Replies,

[1037] CHESHIRE FOLK-LORE.

[No. 113.—June 26th, 1878.]

At the above reference I find recorded two curious examples of our county's Folk-Lore. My male friends, therefore, will scarcely make it a matter of ridicule against a lady correspondent, if I draw attention to another occurring within my own knowledge during the last week or so.

In the garden attached to my house, primroses have been growing in profusion through great part of the current winter. An old lady and friend to whom I somewhat proudly shewed them the other day as a pretty curiosity, the moment she saw them cried out, with a terrified air, "Pull them all up, destroy them at once, or you'll assuredly have a death in the family ere the winter is over! There's nothing so fatal or unlucky as a winter crop of primroses! Pull them all up, I say!" And she would have suited the action to the word, only that I remembered just then that tea was on the table, and so turned the subject into a more congenial channel. Is this belief at all a common one in the county?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[1038] EPITAPH AT INCE.

[Nos. 821, 846, 854, 873, 892.—Sep. 17, Oct. 1, 8, 22, Nov. 5.]

It may be well just to record, from *Notes and Queries*, Feb. 7, that an earlier version of the Blacksmith's Epitaph than you have yet given, is in existence. It is on the grave of one George Miles, in Walton Churchyard, near Liverpool, who died in 1719. Curiously enough, the line of which three or four versions have appeared in *THE SHEAF*, here exhibits yet another variation, and reads—

"My vice 's the dust my friends have laid."

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

[1039] BLACON CROSS.

[No. 890.—Nov. 5.]

I have found the following references to Blacon Cross in the "Surveys of Lands, &c., of the Dean and Chapter of Chester," in the *COMMONWEALTH CHURCH SURVEYS*, forming Vol. I. of the *Lancashire and Cheshire Record Society*, page 226:—

"More in Chester Town feild, One p'cell of Ground, called Long hedge Acre, abutting South to the Lane w'oh leadeth to Blacon Cross, which is in Estimac'on 2A. : 0R. : 0P. ... 2li. : 0s. : 0d.

One Close more of Arrable ground, called Blacon Crosse, butting East upon Port poole Lane, and West to Dee Bank, Cont' by Est'n.....

3A. : 0R. : 0P. ... 3li. : 10s. : 0d."

Some of your readers may now be able to identify *Blacon Cross*, and to say whether a stone cross is ever likely to have stood there.

L. L.

[1040] COPPER MINES IN CHESHIRE.

[Nos. 939, 972, 997.—Dec. 10, 31, Jan. 21.]

"R. O." states the mountainous district about Bickerton and Peckforton was, so late as 20 years ago, worked for copper. Be that as it may, it is certain that two hundred years ago, a similar industry was actively at work in the same locality. Sir Philip Grey Egerton, Bart., writes in 1874 to the scientific serial, *Nature*, as follows:—

"On looking over a packet of old papers I have found two documents, of which I enclose copies, written by a German miner, named Brandshagen, who was employed by my ancestor, Sir Philip Egerton, to superintend the attempt to work copper in the new red sandstone strata of Cheshire in the year 1697. As the rules for miners of that age afford so strong a contrast to the unruly behaviour of that class at the present day, they may perhaps interest some of your readers.

P. DE M. GREY-EGERTON.

'Worthy & most honourable Sir,—Your worship give most humbly thanks for employment meself and my countrymen about your Worship mines, which I have enjoyed now above 4 weekes, & not to be att all further unaquainted unto your Worship, I could not forbear to give a true & plain account of what I have observed in this time about these mines, as good as my smal understanding in ye English language would permit, & if it was in any way acceptable, then my wishes & desires were fulfilled. I have this time also endeavored to blow up ye rocks by guns powder, as the best way to kill them, butt in ye first time I found ye elements, as aire & water, & where against my designe, ye last I have conquered, & I hope I shall doe so ye other next time when I have occasion for it. I found also some other smal things which would not so soon agree with my hands, for there are many years past, that I did work under ground with my owne hands, butt all these things are now diseased, oneld that I was lately too covetous, & would have more rocks blown up then my powder was able to; what other blasts for effect have done, your Worship can be informed of it by Mr. Smith. I shall endeavour all what is in my power to serve your Worship with that understanding I have about mines, to which I have employed meself now above 15 year, in spending a great deal of money as well for learning as travelling in many places in Europe where good mines where, to come to any perfection in this art. I have received now my things for examination of ye oare, which I will doe as possibly I can come to it in this desolate place, where nothing in ye world is to be had for any commodities what soever it may be, & whilst we are strangers here & must buy all things for ready [money] it is impossible to life of what your Worship has allowed unto us, & the:efore I doubt not your Wor-

ship will make a distinction between workmen and workmen, with which I recommend me into your Worship favour, allways remaining your Worship most humble Servant,
J. A. BRANDSHAGEN.

Bickerton, Sept. ye 24th, 1697.

For the Right Honourable Sir Phillip Egerton, Knt., these."

Brandshagen's acquaintance with English was rather confusing, as the foregoing effort at letter writing already enough shows. This will be still more apparent when we come to print his curious rules for his miners at Bickerton, to which Sir Philip Egerton refers in his introductory notes. EDITOR.

FEBRUARY 25, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Feb. 25.—Withenshaw Hall, in Northenden, occupied by the Parliamentary forces.....	1644
„ 26.—William Stanley, of Hooton, the King's Carver, made Sheriff of Cheshire for life.....	1464
„ 27.—Lawrence Fogg, 16th Dean of Chester, died	1718
„ 28.—Public Meeting at Chester Town Hall to petition Parliament in favour of the Habeas Corpus Act.....	1817
Mar. 1.—Roman Hypocaust discovered in the Linen-hall Field, Chester	1779
„ 2.—Howard, the Philanthropist, visited Chester.....	1788
	J. H.

Original Documents.

[1041] THE BOUNDS OF THE CITY OF CHESTER.

[Nos. 582, 785.—March 16, July 16.]

Twice have we recorded the Boundaries of the old city: the first time, as set forth, in 1355, in the Charter of the Black Prince; and secondly, in 1540, amid the throes of the great Reformation. To-day we print them as they were perambulated by Mayor RICHARD DUTTON in the Christmas week of 1573.

"THE MEARES and bands of the Circuite of the liberties of the Cittie of CHESTER, as they were vewed and seene the xxixth daie of december, in the Sixteenth yeare of the raigne of our Soueraigne ladie Elizabth, by the grace of god of englonde, france, and Ireland, quene, defendor of the faith, &c., by RICHARD DUTTON, esquier, in the seconde tyme of his maioraltie, accom-

panied with the persons whose names ar Subscribed.

THAT IS TO WITT, from the ryver of dee at a certaine place there called the Iren bridge, betwene a certen clausure or pasture of the lands of John poole, esquier, nowe in thooocupac'on of Thomas ballin, alderman, vpon the north parte; And a certaine clausure of the lands of the heires of Sir peeres dutton, knight deceased, and nowe in thooocupac'on of m'gerie thorneton, widowe, vpon the Sowthparte, ledinge vp to clauerton high wey. And soe ouer the saide highe way to a certaine sitche which goeth through the middeste of a certaine greene crofte, late belonging to the late dissolved monastarie of Saint Annes of the said Cittie of Chester, late in thooocupac'on of mathewe ellis, and nowe in thooocupacion of nycolas breues (which breues by this survey is appointed through such clausure to make a perfect diche); by and through a certaine sitche or diche called the mene ditche, al's greyditche, being betwene the lands late of our soueraigne ladie the queene, late belonging to the late monastarie of the nones dissolved, and nowe in thooocupac'on of John plethin vpon the northparte, and the lands late of William Lawrenson, and nowe the landes of John D'd, and in thooocupac'on of Thomas burges vpon the Sowthparte. And this is theste ende of the same grey diche, and at the end of the saide landes now in thooocupac'o' of the saide John plethin there semeth an highe way by the saide ditche, conteyninge in bredthe xij yardes, called by some, barnes wey. And so ledinge vpp the same by the saide diche to a crosse way cominge from chester towards eoleston; and thens folowinge that diche by the lands late belonging to the queenes maiestie, nowe in thooocupac'on of John Smithe al's Cooke vpon the northparte. And vpon that side by a certaine closure of lande late of the queenes maiestie, nowe in thooocupac'on of Richard hasellwall, and alsoe by other landes late of the queenes, nowe in thooocupac'on of John Smith al's Cooke, northwarde; where ought to haue bene a highe way for ij waines to meete and nowe encroched wholie by the same John Smith al's Cooke; and passinge by vpon that north p'te a pasture of the landes of the heires of Sir peeres Dutton, now in thooocupac'on of Thomas burges, And at the weste end of the saide grey diche folowinge the same diche, lieth the landes of the heires of the saide Sir peeres Dutton vpon the north parte, and the landes late of the saide nones vpon the Sowth parte. And so from thence streight vnto and ouer an highe way, called bromfild highe way in whiche highe way there is a little hill or bancke called hangmans hill, where in tymes paste weare a paier of gallowes; and owte of that way directlie to passe throwe a Certaine clausure or pasture within the lordshipp of the lache, late belonging to our Soueraigne ladie the quene, And nowe the lands of Sir Vrian brereton, knight, and in thooocupacion of Richard barton; and so folowinge there a like grey dich a vnto the weste parte of a fild called Swartens fild. And then folowinge the saide

dycche northwarde vntill yow come to the landes of the heires of Sir peeres Dutton, nowe in the occupac'on of Thomas Streete, and late in thooocupac'on of Richard hewer, northwarde vnto the lands of therle of oxforde northward; sometyme the landes of Robert Bradforde, and late in thooocupac'on of John booth, esquior, or his assignes, and nowe in thooocupac'on of Symon montforde and John Cooke. And directlie folowinge that ditche from thence right betwene the saide earle of oxford his lands vpon the north parte aforesaid, and the said late noones landes, nowe the lands of the said Sir Vrian brereton vpon the Sowth parte, wherof at thest ende of the saide S'r Vrian breretons such lands one clausure or pasture nowe is in thooocupac'on of Thomas Wooswall and Raufe hilton. And then folowinge one other like dicche westwarde lyinge betwene the saide earles lands northwarde, and the saide Sir vrian breretons southwarde. And so folowinge along the same dicche betwene the same earles lands and the saide Sir vrian breretons lands, late belonginge to the saide dissolved monasterie of the noones, vntill you come to a dicche in oulde tyme called A sitche, which sitche and dicche goeth northwarde vnto Kyanerton lane, the wey from Chester; and vpon theste parte of the same sitche or dicche liethe the landes of the saide earle. And vpon the weste parte of the same sitche or dicche lieth the said Sir Vrian breretons lands. And over that way westward folowe a lane throwe the towne of the lache, betwene the said Sir vrian Breretons lands vpon the weste parte, And the saide earles landes lyinge on thesparte; and so folowe the same lane till yow come to lame poole in saltney, otherwise called black poole. And soe in folowinge the same poole till you come to a place where a paier of gallowes stande, which place is now called gallowes poole, (the same gallowes the olde Earle of Derby caused to be sett vp to serue for the execution of a person comyttinge a murder or felonie in flintshire), and that meareth and deuideth the lib'ties. And so folowe the same poole till you come to the ryver of dee. And so on the ryver of dee to poole bridge which is nowe called port poole, and is the first stone bridge that you come vnto from the tower called the newe tower of this Citie. And so from that bridge folowe the ryver cominge or issuinge vnder that bridge northwarde to the nexte stonne bridge to the saide citie, beinge in mollington highe waye. And from thence up a little sitche or ryver northestwarde betwene the lands of Will'm Chauntrell esquior, vpon the north parte, and the lands of the deane and Chapter of Chester nowe in thooocupac'on of John Delahay, and of the lands in the towne flide of the said Citie vpon the south p'te, vnto a water milne nowe in thooocupac'on of margaret bavande. And from thence to the bache poole at the west ende betwene one clausure or pasture adioyninge to the highe way ledinge from Chester to Vpton and that waye; which clausure or pasture is nowe or late was in thooocupac'on of Jane Smith, wedowe, and will'm knight, and certaine lands nowe in thooocupac'on of the said

m'garet bavande vpon the north parte. And from thence ledinge vp a certaine little sitche or ryver betwene the comen flide of the Cittle of Chester vpon the weste parte, called newton brooke. And folowinge that sitche or ryver vntill you come to flowkersbruck, and so folowinge on vnto and over the highe way ledinge to the saide Cittle from hoole, frodsham, and that way. And over a little stonne bridge in that highe way, and passing eastward and folowinge flowkersbruck right by the lands of Rob't vawdrey, esquior, and betwene one clausure which Roger Radford nowe holdeth by lease vpon the north parte and Chester flide vpon the Sowth-parte. And vnto a little pingle or clausure nowe in thooocupac'on of Thomas Richardson; which Richardson hath there turned that brooke, called flowkersbruck, out of the right course vpon a flide called Spittle flide, southwestward. And so folowinge that brooke vntill yow come to an highe way leadinge from Chester to hoole heathe, to a lake there called in olden tyme St. Annes lake; and over that waie folowinge flowkersbruck vntill you come to a place called bispediche, whiche is at the ende betwene the saide clausure now in thooocupac'on of Thomas Richardson, and betwene the lands late of the colledge of St. Warburge of the Citie of Chester, nowe in thooocupac'on of Thomas browne of boughton vpon the Sowthwest p'te, And the spittleflid vpon the northwest parte. And so folowe that sitche or dicche vntill you come to A Certaine clausure of arable lande nowe in thooocupac'on of Thom's Cooke; and then turne southward folowinge the saide Dicche betwene the said lands nowe in thooocupac'on of the said Cooke vpon thest p'te, and the said Spittleflid vpon the northwest parte, vp to and throwe the highe way from tervin. And so folowinge that highe waie towards Chester vntill you Come to A dicche next adioyninge vpon thestep'te to the Chappell of boughton, and folowe thrugh that dicche eastward vnto an highe way that leadeth from Chester towards tarp'ley. And so over that highe waie to A meirston, levinge the late lepors howses on the weste parte, vnto the highe waie that leadeth vnto butterbache vnder the hill of the water of Dee. And so in folowinge the ripe of the water vnto huntington wood, And from thence vnto the Iren bridge afore said.

Richard Dutton, esquior, maior.

John cowper, alderman	Thomas Throppe
Thomas Greene, alderman	John Delahay
Will'm Ball, alderman	Thom's Hasellwall
John hankie, alderman	henrie Sefton
Will'm massie, sheriff	Richard foxley
pawle Chauntrell, sheriff	John Browne
Thomas bellin, alderman	Nicholas Brues
John harvie, alderman	James Banester
Edward hanmer, ald'	Edward Banester
Edward thompson	Tho: Dowchman
Edward Marten	hughe Rogerson, ald'
Will'm Chantrell, esquior	Rob't brok, gent'.
John Middleton	Walter foxe
Richard Wright	Will'm Wall
Will'm Goodman	Thom's Sandford

Thomas lynyall
Will'm Knight
Edward Dutton
John lynyall
John middleton
Will'm Ball
John asphaw
Will'm Corkill
John Jewitt
Richard Case
Richard Dawbie
Thomas Richardson
Will'm Richardson
Thomas Case
Will'm Case
henrie hocknell
Owen ap Ellis
Lawrence Browne
henrie primrose
Thom's Robinson
John ball

John Soones
John Delahey
George hulton
m'r farmer
Thom's Jones
Thom's burg's
Will'm brid, sen'r
Will'm Stiles
Thom's bildon
John hulton
Rob't Wildinge
falk foxe
Will'm Kelleo
peter litherland
John hixon
Rob't p'ker
Thom's Rogerson
hughe skynn'
Rob't Eaton
Will'm Callie
hugh stockton"

This article having run to a greater length than usual, we reserve to some future occasion any remarks we may think necessary to make in illustration of the subject. It will well repay a little careful attention.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[1042] THE GROSVENOR PARK, CHESTER.

The lands forming the site of this beautiful health resort, which the city of the present day owes to the liberality of the late Marquess of Westminster, were in the market a century and a half ago, as I find by the following Advertisement copied from "*The Chester Weekly Journal*, being the Freshest Advices, Foreign & Domestick," for Wednesday, September 29, 1725 :—

"To be Sold, an Estate of Inheritance, belonging to the late Mr. Darlington, in St. John's Parish, in the City of Chester; several Messuages and Lands thereto belonging, viz. :—

A large well Built House, and large Yard, Court, Orchard and Garden, Stables, and other Conveniences.

Also two Messuages and the Herbage in St. John's Church Yard; and five Shillings at Midsummer yearly for ever from the Weavers Meeting House in the abovesaid Church Yard. Likewise a large Field, called the Hadland, near to the abovesaid Church Yard; the whole being to the Value or Yearly Rent of Forty Pounds per Annum.

Enquire of Mr. James Comberbatch, Timber Merchant, in St. John's Lane, or Mr. James Fuller, Officer of Excise in White Fryar Lane, Chester."

The *Chester Weekly Journal* was printed and published by William Cooke, whose quaint Advertisement is also

worth preserving in connection with the early history of Printing, &c., in Chester. It runs thus :—

"WILLIAM COOKE, Book-Printer and Book-Seller of the City of Chester, at the Sign of the Bishop of Canterbury near the Eastgate, doth all manner of Printing Work, as Books, Bonds, &c.; and selloth Books in most Faculties; With all sorts of Stationary; which Goods may be had, if sent for by the Men that carries this News. Also all manner of Almanacks. December 8, 1725."

T. HUGHES.

[1043] WITCHES HUNG AT CHESTER.

At page 32 of BROSTER's *Cheshire Biography*, 18mo., 1796, there is a note at foot of the page remarking that in searching the parish registers of St. Mary's Chester, he found this curious entry :—

"Three witches hanged at Michaelmas, and buried in the corner of the churchyard, by the Castle ditch, 8th of October, 1656."

Great Saughall.

W. H. B.

[1044] GENERAL GROSVENOR, M.P.

This gallant officer, who finally died a Field Marshal only a very few years ago, was, I fancy from a lot of his letters which have recently passed before me a fairly diligent representative of at all events the dominant corporation interest in Chester at the beginning of this century. The following letter to Mr. W. Richards, Town Clerk of the city from 1799 to 1817, will shew the class of work that fell usually to his lot, outside of the House itself :—

"Grosvenor Sq',

March 9th, 1805.

Sir,

Till this I have not been able to take a pen in my hand for the purpose of business, having been confined from a contusion on the Head, or rather a concussion of the brain.

I hope the Appointment of Parry, which you wrote to me about on the 23rd of March [? February] will arrive at Chester shortly.

Lieut. Thos. Sharston Mutson, so strongly recommended to me by the Gent'n of the Corporation & City, I have stated his claims to the consideration of the Lords of the Admiralty, with my solicitation in favour of the object he has in view.

You will see by the papers to day, that we are in want of a New First Lord for the Admiralty. Can you furnish us one from Chester?

I remain, D'r Sir,

Your very faithful Hu'le serv't,

THOS. GROSVENOR.

W. Richards, Esq.,
Chester."

I have searched the files of the *Chester Courant* for 1805, but can find no trace of the petitioning Lieutenant in whom the Corporation felt so warm an interest. Nor do I think that old Chester answered General Grosvenor's whip, by sending up a 'First Lord' to regulate the Navy.

G. T.

Queries.**[1045] THE ARCHDEACONRY OF CHESTER.**

At the Bishop's Registry at CHESTER I understand there are no records relating to the proceedings within the above-named Archdeaconry previous to the separation of the Chester diocese in 1541. Are any such early records as I refer to preserved at York, Lichfield, or elsewhere? There ought to be some valuable materials available, somewhere or other, descriptive of pre-Reformation Church life in the various parishes of Cheshire,—who can tell me where? H. S. A.

[1046] DELAMERE CHURCH BELL.

My late father and I, some fifteen or more years ago, were being driven in an open conveyance from Northwich to our distant home, when, just as we were passing DELAMERE Church, the bell began to toll for a funeral. Our driver, who was an intelligent Jehu, and seemed to be well acquainted with the district, told us there was a tradition that the bell in question had served some other sacred purpose before it took its place in the belfry at Delamere. What foundation is there for this unlikely story? L. L.

[1047] REV. WILLIAM HARRISON, OF CHESTER.

The Rev. William Harrison, late Vicar of St. Oswald's (who died on the 11th inst., aged 83), was the author of an 8vo. volume of *Parochial Sermons* (London: Whittaker & Co., and Hugh Roberts, Chester, 1859). I should be glad to know whether Mr. Harrison wrote or published any other works.

Gatley.

P. M. H.

Replies.**[1048] THE KALEYARDS GATE, CHESTER.**

[No. 794.—Aug. 27.]

This gateway seems to have been made by the Abbot and Monks of St. Werburgh through the great Wall of the city, and by sufferance of the Mayor and Citizens, in the reign of Edward I., as a special favour to the convent, whose kitchen gardens were situated just outside the Walls. But whether the abbot, as abbots of every age seem to have had the knack of doing, exceeded his prerogative or abused his privilege, I cannot positively say; yet an inference to that effect may fairly be drawn from the following covenant remaining among the Plea Rolls of the county of Chester, in the custody of the Keeper of the Public Records, London. The document is thus calendered:—

"16 Edward II. Chester. Dissentions having arisen between the Abbot and Convent of Chester,

and the Mayor and Commonalty of the city, touching the closing of the postern of the said abbey, in the wall of the city contiguous to the abbey; it was covenanted, that the said Abbot and Convent and their successors should hold the said postern closed in time of peace, on conditions that they made a drawbridge across the ditch in the garden of the said abbey, and supported the said bridge, and took such measures for the security of the city as they should deem fit, by the custody of the keys, and drawing the said bridge; and that they destroyed the great gate erected by them in their own proper wall, and kept the place closed; in lieu of which the said Mayor and Commonalty were to permit the said Abbot to make another postern in the place outside the walls of the convent in which the swinesty was accustomed to be, the said door to be of such dimensions that a man on foot might lead a horse through without difficulty, the same to be closed in time of war, should the safety of the city require it."

From this it will appear that the monks had not satisfied themselves with the city's permission to open a gate through the Walls; but had erected a more pretentious one in the east wall of their garden, allowing or refusing egress and ingress to the citizens at their will, yet not taking sufficient care for the safety of the city, night and day, at that point. The result of the dissension seems to have been, that the abbey made itself responsible for maintaining a drawbridge across the moat, and for keeping the same drawn at night and in war time: the monks covenanted moreover to take down the great outer gate of the Kaleyards, and to substitute another of more moderate proportions, which latter remained as late as the 17th century.

T. HUGHES.

[1049] A BALA BEAUTY.

[No. 1011.—February 4.]

Died April 7, 1804, at Ruthin, Mrs. Parry, relict of the late Rev. the Warden of that place, who had died only the week previous. "This was the lady whose personal charms, in early life, drew forth from the discriminating pen of Lord Lyttelton the appellation of "The Fair Maid of Bala!" A slightly extended notice of the Rev. W. Parry, her husband, appears in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for April, 1804.

Crosswylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

[1050] ANCIENT IRON WORK.

[No. 1035.—Feb. 18.]

In your last issue, "H. S. A." enquires whether any good and early specimens of iron work exist in Cheshire. I cannot refrain from mentioning our old parish chest in MALPAS Church, which is covered with wrought iron so beautifully worked that iron-workers from all parts of the country come to visit it. It is said to be of the twelfth century. I shall be at home in March, and would gladly show it to anyone calling.

Malpas.

W. T. KENTON.

MARCH 3, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

March 3.—Sir Peter Leycester, bart., the Cheshire antiquary, born at Nether Tabley	1613
„ 4.—Old Pentice Buildings at the High Cross, Chester, taken down	1806
„ 5.—Sir Richard Wilbraham, of Woodhey, created a Baronet	1621
„ 6.—Thomas Moreton, 9th Bishop of Chester, translated to Lichfield and Coventry	1618
7.—Bishop Thomas Wilson, a native of Burton, died at Bishop's Court, Isle of Man	1755
„ 8.—Sir Robert Booth, and William his son, of Dunham Massey, made joint Sheriffs of Cheshire for life	1442
„ 9.—Sir Ralph Egerton, Standard Bearer of England, died	1527

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1051] SPECIAL ASSIZE FOR CHESTER CITY.

In the volume of Harleian MSS., numbered 1929 at the British Museum, and entitled "Historical Collections relating to Chester, by Randal Holme," I find the following very interesting record. It relates how one Fox, of Ireland, was tried in the Common Hall of the City of Chester for treasonable words; for which, upon conviction, he stood some hours in the Pillory, and lost his ears:—

"Aug. 31, 1663, this day being the first day of the assize week for the county palatine of Cheshire, the cheife Justice S^r Job Charlton was feched fro' the Castle of Chester by the Shiriff of the City, with all the conntables of the City & a gard. of appointed freeme' with halberds, to sit an especiall comission in the com'on hall of Chester, wherein the Maior, him, the recorder Rich. Leuein, Mr. Tho : Jones, Justice of . . . with sen'all gentry of the county & alderm' of the City, were no'iated comissioners for the tryall of all treasonable acts or words; where, the day afores'd, on fox of Ireland was arraig'd for speaking treason, viz.: that as he had prosecuted the late K. to death, so he would doe this.

by this comission the King did gine liberty to the Citty & county to try all treasons within themselves, provided the Recorder, S^r Job, or Mr. Jones, be one of the comissioners therein. W^{oh} thinge was all way excepted out of their charters, & ssons [? sessions] for treason ever sent to London before this tyme.

on Saturday after, he was iudged to the pillory, where he stood . . . hours, and lost his eares."

R. WILBRAHAM JONES.

The Temple, London.

This is a noteworthy scrap which Randle Holme's industry in the first place, and now Mr. Wilbraham Jones' courtesy, have preserved to us. It establishes the fact that whenever Her Majesty's Judges hold an Assize (as they have occasionally in our remembrance) within the limits of the City, it is the duty and the privilege of the High Sheriff of Chester, as distinguished from his aristocratic brother of Cheshire, to escort their Lordships from the limits of Gloverstone to the courthouse in the Common Hall. He had to furnish moreover an efficient guard of Freemen halberdiers, or javelin-men, whose duty it was to attend the Judges on these occasions in seemingly state befitting their judicial character. Let the Queen's own representative at Chester take care in the future that his prerogative in this respect is not rudely set at nought!

The "Mr. Thomas Jones," one of the Judges named in the Commission, was afterwards Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and locally known on the Welsh and Shropshire borders as Sir Thomas Jones, of Carreghova, —see SHEAF, Vol. I., pp. 54, 65. T. HUGHES.

[1052] CAPTAIN BILLINGSLEY.

This officer, who held an important command in Ireland for several years prior to the breaking out of the Civil War in our own island, was a son-in-law of Captain FRANCIS SANDFORD, of Sandford, to whom we have frequently referred in previous articles in THE SHEAF.

A letter of his, written in 1652, has been preserved at Sandford, and is interesting as describing the delays and dangers in those early days attending the traffic between Cheshire and Ireland. Indeed the "my lord" named in the first paragraph, who was Edward Brabazon, Earl of Meath, and a brother-in-law of Captain Sandford, was himself drowned in his passage between Holyhead and Beaumaris on May 25, 1676.

"Sir,

I bless god wee are come safe vnto Nesson. my Lord was p'swaded te make vse of the Carte to convey all things to the water side, althought once resolved to stay att CHESTER. I hope yo'r horses will come save vnto you, for w'oh wee are truly thankfull.

S^r Maurish Vstace and his Lady desires to be remembered vnto you and my Mother, and sey they intend to see you before their goeing for Ireland. Shipinge is redy, butt the wind is Cross, w'oh wee must w'ith patience waite gods leasure. my bro'r Vernons Certessey will doe vs a spetiall favore att this time, and wee doe hope that you will in good time remember all dutifull children, amongst w'oh number you shall ever find vs, espetially

Yo'r affeo'oned dutifull sonn

EDW: BILLINGSLEY.

Nesson,

16th March, '52.

Noe newes in these p'ts, but disputinge w'ch gott the better, Dutch or English, w'ch yett not resolved. be pleased to remember o'r duties to my Mother, w'th o'r respects vnto all freinds, and o'r blessinge to our deare boyes, of whome wee doubt not yo'r care.

ffor his much honored ffather,

francis Sandford, Esq'r.

att his house att Sandford, present these."

This letter affords another evidence of the important place NESTON once held as the port of embarkation from England to Ireland. It was seldom indeed that the village hotel, or its counterpart on the PARKGATE shore, was not alive with travellers waiting for the packet, or dancing attendance on the wind, preparatory to the dangerous passage between the two kingdoms.

In a future article we shall have another word to say as to Captain Billingsley, and as to a turning point in his early life, which will be likely to both interest and amuse our readers.

EDITOR.

[1053] BLUE GIRLS' SCHOOL, CHESTER.

Following up my first contribution on this subject [see No. 1,017] I send a few more extracts in conclusion from the Treasurer's Accounts.

The rules are some of them very quaint, and the dress of the girls, given when put out to service, was as follows:—

"A gown, and baze petty coat, two coifes, a pair of Shoes, a pair of Knitt Gloves, two Aprons, a pair of Leather bodice, and two suits of Pinners." Also, "A Bible, and book of Common Prayer in octavo, a whole Duty of Man, and an Exposition of the Church Catechism."

I cannot find where the house was situated, but the quarter's rent of it was 15s. It was probably near the Cathedral, as another rule is

"That the Mistress take the girls every Sunday and Holy Day to the Choire, to Morng. and Eveng. Service."

But in 1723 the Rev. W. Parry of St. Bridget's, was "requested to instruct the children in the principles of the Christian Religion." So it might have been moved by that time into that Parish.

Amongst the disbursements on and about this year I will quote the following:—

"A Quarter's Salary to the Mistress.....	£3	5	0
And, a Shilling more for encouragement.			
To John Yewd for five stone and half of			
Wool and toe	3	17	5
To Mrs. Crosby for Shoes.....	0	10	0
Geo. Shone for Weaving 30 ells of cloth ...	0	7	6
Mr. Wilson for Dying	0	15	0
Paid Mrs. Bullen for 5 weeks' maintenance			
of two girls since All Saints to Dec. 7 ...	1	0	0
Thos. Maddocks ye Plaisterer, for white			
washing and Blackening ye school.....	0	4	2

Mr. Roger Massey, Linnen draper, a bill... for Stamps to Martha Smith's indentures and bond	0	15	6
To Mr. Page, for binding a Common Prayer book	0	4	6

John Calley, for weaving 38 yards of cloth	0	14	6
--	---	----	---

For whitening 100 yards Cloth.....	0	9	6
------------------------------------	---	---	---

To Martha Newell for Cloaths	1	10	0
------------------------------------	---	----	---

Also to buy her a Coat, according to the order of the day	0	10	0
---	---	----	---

1729.			
To the town Bedel, for having some Parents before Alderman Bingley for not suffering ye Children to come to School	1	0	0

Te Mr. Kelsall, taylor, for making 12 gowns, and pettycoat altered	0	17	8
--	---	----	---

In 1733 the School had been removed to new Premises (I should be interested to know the site of this and the previous building) for in that year there occurs the payment

"To Mr. Willm. Croughton a years rent for the new School house.....	6	0	0
---	---	---	---

Also that the yearly salary of Mrs. Simmons be from this time for her good care of the children raised to twenty pounds.

Signed, Eliz. Falcouer	M. Marsden
Eliz. Hurleston	E. Barnston
E. Burroughs	S. Roberts
F. Whishaw	Ann Kenrick."
K. Aubrey	

It seems that down to the year 1799 the Girls spun the yarn for their clothing, as

"It was ordered that Mrs. Crane, the Mistress, should purchase two wheels for the use of the School; and in consideration of the advanced price of provisions, an additional sum of ten shillings should be allowed for each girl during the pleasure of the Managers of the School.

Signed, C. M. Cotton
Mary Bowen
Sarah Williams
Lucy Currey.

It was also ordered that Mr. Philip Humberston be appointed Treasurer in the room of Mr. William Massey, who had resigned that office. It was also ordered that an advertisement be inserted in the Chester papers informing the Public that the girls are some of them ready for place."

In 1810 the BLUE GIRLS' SCHOOL removed to a house at the top of the garden belonging to the Infirmary; after which it found a temporary home on the west side of Queen-street, until the present commodious and ornamental school was built in the VICAR'S LANE, by St. John's Church, where the work is now efficiently carried on.

Newton.

H.

Notes.

[1054] SIR WATKIN'S FRUGAL BANQUET.

Chancing to look amongst some old papers, I have come across an account of a "spread" given in the olden times, which may no doubt prove interesting to some of the readers of *THE CHESHIRE SHEAF*:-

"Bill of fare of the entertainment given by Sir WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNN, at Wynnstay, April 19, 1770:-Thirty bullocks, 1 ditto roasted whole, 50 hogs, 50 calves, 80 sheep, 18 lambs, 70 pigs, 51 guinea fowls, 37 turkeys, 12 turkey poults, 8 capons, 25 pea fowls, 300 chickens, 360 fowls, 96 ducklings, 48 rabbits, 15 snipes, 1 leveret, 5 bucks, 421 pounds of salmon, 30 brace of tench, 40 brace of carp, 36 pike, 60 dozen trout, 108 flounders, 109 lobsters, 96 crabs, 10 quarts of shrimps, 200 craw fish, 60 barrels of pickled oysters, 1 hoghead of rook oysters, 20 quarts of oysters for sauce, 168 hams, 100 tongues, 125 plum puddings, 108 apple pies, 104 pork pies, 30 beef pies, 34 rice puddings, 7 venison pies, 60 raised pies, 80 tarts, 30 pieces of out pastry, 24 pounds of cake, 60 savelly cakes, 30 sweetmeat cakes, 144 ice creams, 18,000 eggs, 150 gallons of milk, 60 quarts of cream, 30 bushels potatoes, 6,000 bundles asparagus, 280 pottles of French beans, 30 dishes of green peas, 12 cucumbers, 70 hogheads of ale, 120 dozen of ale. There was a very great quantity of brandy, rum, and shrub. Salt butter cost £36, besides fresh butter, rook work shapes, landscapes in jelly, blanc-mange, an immense quantity of pastry, and one large cask of ale which held 26 hogheads. Three coaches full of cooks were sent from London on the above occasion. It is thought there were at least 15,000 people at dinner in Sir Watkin's park at the same time."

Douglas, Isle of Man.

S. S. (2)

[1055] MANORIAL COURT ROLLS.

What a pity it is that there is not some central and authorised place of deposit in every County, where such documents as the Court Rolls of Old Manors that have ceased to be, and where the ancient Deeds of smaller Estates, no longer necessary in the lawyers' eyes to prove the titles of their clients, might go for safe custody, and for the purposes of genealogical and historical research! Such documents as the following, for instance, ought not to be hawked about in an old bookseller's catalogue, where I fell in with it the other day:-

"82. CHESHIRE-The original Roll of the Fines and Amercements for not doing certain suits and Services in the Manors or parishes of Goostrey, Cranage, Plumley, Hulse, Over-Tabley, etc. Some of the Fines are very curious, many notable Persons, Knights, Gentlemen and Esquires were fined Six Shillings and Eightpence each for not attending their Local Courts. Nicely written on both sides, dated 1611."

An authorised Deeds Office for Cheshire, where these old parchments and official Papers might go and be systematically arranged for permanent safety and ready reference, would be a real gain to the historian and the antiquary.

T. HUGHES.

Queries.

[1056] RINGING THE CHAINS AT CONGLETON.

Our old Church, rebuilt in stately brick, and with handsome Palladian interior, early in the last century, was originally the private "chappell" and chaplaincy of the Corporation. The original little half-timbered building was dedicated, no one knows when, to "St. Peter ad Vincula." A custom in ancient days obtained of sending round the town at midnight of the Vigil of the 12th of August, three acolytes or servers, each carrying sash-ways a leathern belt studded with spherical bells with rolling bullet clappers. These minor ministers danced about in all the public places, producing a horrid clangor of noise, effectual enough for "wake" purposes; and having presumably thus sufficiently aroused the faithful, the chief officer proclaimed at the Market Cross the holding of St. Peter's wake, and exhorted all good people to keep it religiously. It is curious that this bell ringing was always called down to my time, as mentioned below, the ringing of "the chains": and it seems not unreasonable to suppose that the round bells studding the belts were meant to represent the "lacunæ" in the "vincula" of St. Peter. At the Reformation, when many good things happened, this bad one supervened on the old observance; that the authorities in Church or (local) State, or both, to shew their contempt for ancient religious forms, handed over the three belts of chains to a family of chimney sweepers, who, as their predecessors had done, perambulated the town on the midnight of the wake vigil, but published at the Market Cross a profane travesty of the old proclamation, ending with an exhortation to drink as much good strong ale as possible during the wake festival. These sweeps, like other dignitaries, were hereditary, and it happened that for near 300 years the bells or chains were handed down from sire to son, and the bell ringing nuisance continued to within the last 20 years, ending as usual with the scandalous proclamation. Fortunately the line of succession to the right to the degraded bells became duplex. Fights and rows occurred among the claimants until, when both the belligerents had been safely ensconced in the lockups, as well for their mutual protection as that of the public, they sent for me as the Town Clerk; and, in consideration of the sum of 10s. to each litigant, made over to me all their rival claims, rights, titles and interests in the ancient Chains of

Peter. I got the ancient leathers with their venerable iron buckles cleaned and renovated, and several missing bells replaced by modern fac similis; and they are preserved among our archives. I wish to ask whether any other church within the purview of your "SHEAF" dedicated to "St. Peter ad Vincula" knows or ever has known of this custom of "ringing the chains"; or are we at Congleton as unique in this particular as in many others?

Congleton.

J. W.

[1057] KNIGHTS OF THE ROYAL OAK.

In a small work, *Cheshire Biography*, by Broster and Son, dated 1796, at page 39, there is a note by Mr. Broster relating to Roger Grosvenor, Esq., who for his attachment and loyalty to the Royal cause was one of the thirteen Cheshire gentlemen nominated by King Charles II. to become a Knight of the above Order.

Mr. Broster says the "badge," worn as an honorary reward, was to have been a "silver medal," with the device of the King in an oak, pendant to a ribbon about their necks, as the Knights of the Garter then wore theirs. The "Order" was laid aside lest it might distract the kingdom by feuds and animosities.

I have an "antique badge" for suspension round the neck—a small square polished oak tablet, not quite three inches square, on which is inlaid a beautiful portrait of King Charles, but I think it is the likeness of Charles I. It is strange that it is inlaid on oak. If it is intended for Charles II., he is represented with his natural hair and a small beard. Can any virtuoso or antiquary give any account of this peculiar badge or ornament? I have also another similar badge, about the same size, with St. George and the Dragon, in silver, inlaid on ebony, or some such hard black wood. These are both pierced to suspend from one corner of the square of the tablet.

I note that in the above little work, from page 31 to page 58 is taken up with biographies of the Randle Holmes, and with dedicatory epistles to Cheshire gentlemen, subscribers to his *Academy of Armoury*, by the third Randle Holme.

Great Saughall.

W. H. B.

Replies.

[1058] ROBERT FROST AND ARTHUR, PRINCE OF WALES.

[Nos. 64, 96, 303, 473.—May 20, June 12, Oct. 9, 1878, Jan. 15, 1879.]

This prominent lawyer and parson (those two professions ran very much in couples in mediæval days) about whom some curious particulars have already appeared in *THE SHEAF*, was, while Almoner to the

young Prince Arthur, elder son of Henry VII., along with other officers of the Prince's Council, appointed a Commissioner "to levy money in the Counties of CHESTER and FLINT, to aid the King in his war with the Scotch." The writ was dated from Ludlow Castle on April 1, 12 Henry VII.

On the 14th August, 15 Henry VII., having by that time become Chancellor to the Prince's Highness, in succession to John, Bishop of Coventry, Lichfield, and Chester, he was placed on a Commission, with his old associates JOHN CHALONER, one of the Justices of Chester, and WILLIAM TATTON, a Baron of the Prince's Exchequer, "to collect from the inhabitants of CHESHIRE and FLINTSHIRE the customary gift or subsidy called *Le Mise*, due to Arthur, Prince of Wales, on his first entrance on his inheritance in those counties."

Robert Frost's name appears in another writ as "Supervisor of all the Royal domains in Cheshire." It is clear, therefore, that he was high in the favour of the young prince (perhaps he had been his tutor), who, had he lived to be King, might have still further dignified his Almoner and Chancellor.

G. T.

[1059]

OLD CHESTER.

[No. 269.—Sept. 25, 1878.]

There were two cities known to the Britons as Caerlleon. One was Caerlleon Guar Usic,—Lion-Town on Usk,—which we now call Usk. The other was Caerlleon Guar Dyfrdwy—Lion-town on Dee—namely, Chester. The last epithet, it should not be forgotten, is a corruption of Westchester, by which name the city was known at least as late as the reign of Henry VIII.

Balham.

HERMENTRUDE.

[1060] THE PANCAKE BELL.

[No. 1034.—Feb. 18.]

This bell has been rung at our church of "St. Peter ad Vincula" from immemorial time, and is yet rung at 11 a.m. on every Shrove Tuesday forenoon, and everybody calls it the "Pancake Bell." Whether the ringing was originally intended to summon the faithful to the great annual shroving, or to the savoury banquet after it, I cannot tell. But the mass service being early, and eleven being close on ancient dining time, I should conjecture that the ringing (not tolling) of the big tenor bell was rather significant of the end, than the preliminary to the beginning, of the religious observances of the day.

Congleton.

J. W.

[1061]

ANCIENT IRON WORK.

[No. 1035.—Feb. 18.]

Referring to "H. S. A.'s" enquiry, there seem to be very few specimens of iron work in Chester churches

The railing around the tombs in the north-west corner of St. John's, Chester, hardly comes under the head of ornamental iron work. There is also a suspender in the same church formerly used for carrying chandelier. The two iron gates to the aisles of Chester Cathedral, presented by the Duke of Westminster, were said to be old work when erected. At Mold, near the mansion of Thos. Wynne-Eyton, Esq., are two wrought iron gates, one of great size: these are not often seen, the road never having been made to them, though they were erected more than a century since. They are of the same class as those locally better known, which formed the entrance at Pulford, on the Wrexham-road, from Chester to the Eaton Park.

A good and very early specimen of light Iron work may be seen in the hinges of Doors to a Cabinet or Vestment Closet in the small Vestry of CHESTER CATHEDRAL; the entrance to which is in the north aisle of the Choir, behind the Organ and Bishop Pearson's Monument.

Mold.

CANDIDUS.

MARCH 10, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

March 10.—Eccleston newly-rebuilt Church first opened for divine service	1809
„ 12.—Randle Holme the son, Mayor of Chester 1643, died	1643
„ 13.—Sir William Brereton defeated the Royalists near Middlewich	1643
„ 15.—Thomas Egerton, Viscount Brackley, died at York House, London	1617
„ 16.—Henry Ferne, Bishop of Chester for four weeks only, died.....	1662

J. H.

Original Documents,

[1062] THE CIVIL WAR IN CHESHIRE.

LORD BYRON AND THE SIEGE OF LATHOM.

We print to-day a couple more of the Letters forming part of the voluminous "Correspondence of Sir WILLIAM BRERETON," now the property of the Nation, and preserved in the British Museum. These Letters are valuable as being not alone the correspondence between Brereton and his own generals, but as embracing others apparently captured in battle, or intercepted by his scouts. The transcripts now used were taken eighteen years ago for Dr. KENDRICK of

Warrington by Mr. Sims, a well-known official at the Museum, and may be trusted, therefore, to be thoroughly reliable copies.

The two here printed are each addressed to PRINCE RUPERT, who was generalissimo of all the King's forces in Cheshire, Lancashire, Staffordshire, Salop, and North Wales. The first bears the signature of Sir JOHN (only recently created Lord) BYRON, who commanded at Chester. His Lordship was just then concerned for the safety of LATHOM HOUSE, closely besieged by the Roundheads under Colonel Rigby, and he implores the Prince to hasten to the rescue of the gallant little garrison. He has a word or two to say about FRODSHAM and ADELM, which towns he was at that time harassing with his Chester forces; and promises to meet the Prince at KNUTSFORD with all the troops he can muster, to assist in the relief of LATHOM and the capture afterwards, as he hopes, of Liverpool. Here, however, are his Lordship's own words:—

"Add. MS. 18,981. art. 252.

May it please y'r Highness,

Upon the importunity of the Lankashire gentlemen, I am forced to renew theire humble suite to y'r Highness that you would bee pleased, as soone as you are in a condition to marche, to looke that way with y'r army before LATHAM bee lost; w'ch they conceave may runn some hazard, if not speedily releevd upon the access of oure forces to it from other parts of Lankashire. The constant intelligence from that country every day is, that if y'r Highness once appeare there, the greatest part of the Rebels forces will desert them & joyne with you, & that country beeing once reduced, all this part of England will presently bee cleere; the rebellion in these parts beeing wholly supported from thence.

Yesterday I sent my owne regiment of foot to FRADSHAM, with an intention to have kept that bridge; but the enimye appeared there so stronge that after a little skirmish, wherein some men were lost on both sides, wee were forced to quitt that Towne, & to quarter two mile on this side it, the Rebels havinge cast up a worck on the other side of the bridge, w'ch wee were not stronge enough to beate them out of: at the same time I sent a party of horse to ADELM, a Towne betwixt NAMPTWICH & WEMM, where wee tooke 14 of theire horse with the men and armes, & missed very narrowly some ammunition that was conveyinge to Wemm.

Whensoever y'r Highness shall intend to marche towards Lankashire, y'r best way from Shrewsbury will bee to Whitechurch and Drayton, and thence to KNUTSFORD, w'ch will bee a convenient place for mee to waite upon y'r Highness, with those forces I have heere; but I shall humbly desire y'r Highness I may have 800 musquetts, w'ch with 200 pikes I have caused to bee made heere will compleately arme these men.

Upon the releefe of LATHAM, y'r Highness will bee sure to have LIVERPOOL, whereby the intercourse betwixt these parts & Ireland will bee secured, and the Rebels shippes, for want of a harbor, will

not bee able to continue upon this coast; and nothings will more daunt the Scotts & hinder theire designs then to take the support of that country from them.

I have (according to y'r Highness command) sent a trumpett to Manchester concerninge the exchange of Colonel MONCK, who is not yett returned: & this day the commander at NAMPTWICH sent mee word, that they would bee contented to ransom such of our prisoners for a months pay as wee have no exchanges for, upon promise that they may doe the like hereafter for such of theires as shall bee taken; wherein I humbly desire to know y'r Highness resolution, that accordingly I may returne them an answere, in the meane time & ever remaine

S'r, Y'r Highness,
most humble and most
obliged Servant
JOHN BYRON.

Chester, April 7,
1644."

The "Colonell Monck," he is hoping to exchange, had been taken prisoner at the battle of Northwich, Jan. 27, 1643-4, and was, we presume, the afterwards celebrated General GEORGE MONK; who during the Commonwealth was so conspicuous a soldier in the Parliamentary army, and who, fortunately changing sides at the right moment, was the main instrument in effecting the Restoration of Charles II.

[1063] CAPEL AT WHITCHURCH.

The second Letter comes from Arthur, Lord CAPEL, who is by the Prince's command at WHITCHURCH with a large force drawn from the garrisons of Salop to meet his Highness; who had engaged to join him there, *en route* to the succour of LADY DERBY at Lathom:—

"May it please your highnes,

I receved at WHITCHURCH your com'ands for 10 barrells of Powder, 20 bundels of match. It would want some time to acquaint your highnes with the present order of affayers heere; but I having receved formerly com'ands from your[sic] to draw all the forces I could hither, which accordingly I have done, wee are heer neere 2000 foote and horse.

BREWERTON is returned, & this morning I am advertised that hee hath receved three loads of am'nition, and from Manchester expects forces this night. Monday, I gave them an alarum; towsday, they gave us one: wee persued them neere to the town, as fast as in soe vile a countree was fitt. tow barrells of powder, by com'and from Oxford, I sent to S'r William Russell, one to LUDLOW Castell, a place of Importance and neere the enemy. these allarum have emtied three barrells, though I conceive not spent, but In there flasks and handeleers.

I beseech your highnes, upon these consideration[s], pardon that I have sent but 5, with the proportion of match. if It bee your pleasure to com'and the rest, I humbly pray I may receive

com'ands to disband heere, excepting such numbers as wilbe fitt to strengthen Shrewsberry; and then I have left all Cheshire, Lancashire, and Shropshire in wors condition then I found them, for Lancashire hath found an advantage by my diversion of Brewerton.

I humble rest
to your highnes
a most humble servant
ARTHUR CAPELL.

Whitchurch,
13 Aprill."

It was a month longer before Prince Rupert found his way through Cheshire into Lancashire, a month of great anxiety, though buoyed up by fortitude and hope, for Lady Derby and her brave companions; but on the 27th of May and following days the Prince had the happiness to relieve the gallant garrison of Lathom, the defence of which against fearful odds has covered the name of its noble Countess with just and imperishable glory. EDITOR.

[1064] TIRED OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

The following Manifesto comes from the prolific stores at Oulton Park, and is, unfortunately, without date. Sir PHILIP EGBERTON, however, is of opinion it may be assigned to the furtive attempt in 1648 to restore the Royal power. Copies of the document were no doubt distributed by stealth all over the county of Chester.

"The Declaration of the Lords, Gentlemen, freeholders, and Yeomen, of this once happy Kingdome of Englande.

Since itt hath pleased Almighty God to suffer ye spiritt of devision to continue in this distracted Nation, and to leave vs without any settled foundation of Religion, liberty or p'p'tie; the Legislative power vsurped and contemned att pleasurer: the Army, reased att firste for our defence, Abused & misled into vnwarantable Actions, by the Cuning & ambition of some of their superior Officers; noe face of Governement appearing, eyther in any single p'son or Body of men in Councell lawfully Constetuted, to whom the Greavances of the People may with any Probability of successe bee prop'ly addressed,

Wee being Contious of our Dutie & sentible of our owne & Nations ruine if these distractions continue, or resolve into a more fixed oppression, by some corrupte settlements incoonsistente with Lawes, Pease, & interests of the Nation, have taken vp armes in defence of our selves & all others who will p'take with vs in the vindication and maintainance of the freedom of Parliamente, againste all violence whatsoever of the knowne Lawes, Liberty, and p'p'tie of the Good people of this Nation, who att p'sente groane vnder Illegall, Arbitrary, & insubportable taxes and payments vnknowne to our Ancesters.

This being our Duetty to God and Man, and our onely designe, wee cannot dispeare of the blessing

of him that giveth victory, nor of the chearfull concurence of all good men, nor of the vndeceaved p'te of the Army; whose arreares, increace, a further pay, & Advancements to higher oom'ands, wee shall by all meanes p'ouer, suffering noe imposition or fforce on any mans contience: to this wee doubt nott but all true English men will say Amen."

This rising, like other movements good in themselves have been before and since, was before its time, and brought trouble on its projectors; many of whom, however, lived to see the fruition of their hopes some twelve years afterwards.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1065] BATTLE OF POICTIERS.

[Nos. 811, 837.—Sept. 10, 24.]

"G. T." has contributed a list of the Cheshire heroes who fought at AGINCOURT. From the Calendar of the Public Records I have endeavoured to tie together a list of the men of our county whose names I find to have served in Gascony and at POICTIERS.

Of Lord Audley and his four squires, Sir John Delves, Sir Thos. Dutton, Sir Robert Foulshurst, and Sir John Hawkstone, so much has been said by the historian that I pass them by here, in order to record the services of somewhat "smaller fry."

This list gives the men who served in Gascony and at Poitiers; also the rewards granted them by the Black Prince for their services:—

ACTON, ADAM DE. The warrant of the Prince of Wales, dated July 4th, 1357, bestows the bailiwick of the serjeantry of Bucklow, upon this man, which was granted Dec. 31, 1358, in regard of the very great place (tresgraund lieu) he held at the battle of Poitiers; with a pardon for all felonies, &c., committed by him in the County of Chester.

APPULTON, WM. DE. Present at the same battle, was granted, 1357, the office of vendor of the goods of felons, fugitives, &c., of the County of Chester.

ASTEL, ROBT., SON OF PLEBS DE, also present. Pardon for the death of John le Koo, of Knutsford.

BAGULEY, THOMAS of Knottesford. This man petitions that he had been with the King's father at the siege of Calais and at the battle of Poitiers, and elsewhere abroad, and had never received any reward, as was well known to the people of Chester and praying to be granted 6d. a day for life, which was granted him during pleasure, March 29, 1358.

BOSDON, ROGER DE. Granted the office of keeper of the park of Pekforton, with 2d. a day, for his services in Gascony and Poitiers (May 9th, 1357).

CHEYNEY, SIR ALAN, Kt. 1357. Warrant for (Feb. 1), and grant (Feb. 6), of an annuity of £40 for

his services to the Prince in Gascony, and especially at the battle of Poitiers, where he was in attendance upon the person of the Prince, "ubi ex assignatione nostra, pro corpore nostra extitit." He appears to have been appointed janitor of Beeston and Rhuddlan Castles in further reward.

FRODSHAM, THOS., SON OF JOHN DE. Has bailiwick of the haywardship of Frodsam Marsh; and is pardoned for all felonies, &c., committed by him in the county of Ches'er, excepting the deaths of the Prince's ministers, and of Bartholomew de Norden and Richard Bechynton. 1357.

GRYMESDICHE, SIMON DE. Warrant (April 6, 1357) and pardon (Aug. 20, 1358), on account of his services in the battle. The nature of the offence of which he is absolved is not mentioned.

HANDFORD, ROGER. Warrant (May 25, 1357) for his pardon for all felonies, &c., committed by him in the county of Chester, except the death of the Prince's ministers and Bertram de Norden and Richard de Becheton.

JANNEY, WILLIAM, JUNR. Pardoned for his assault on William son of Thomas de Sale and Robert Fayrochild of Somerford, on account of his services at Poitiers, &c.

MASSEY, HAMO DE. Warrant for (April 10, 1357), and pardon for all his felonies, &c., excepting the death of the ministers, of Norden, and Becheton as before mentioned. In 1358 he is exempted from serving on juries, etc.

MASSEY, RICH. DE. Has granted, July 13, 1357, the bailiwick of the advowries of Chester for £10 yearly. In 1362 a Sir Richard de Massey is mentioned in a roll as the leader of the archers with the Prince of Wales in his last (this very) expedition into France.

NEVILLE, SIR ROBT. KT. Warrant for (Aug. 8, 1358), & grant of (Aug. 20th), an annuity for life of 100 marks, for his services in the campaign and at Poitiers.

NEWTON, WILLM DE. For the like services had a warrant (May 25, 1357) and pardon (Sep. 25), for all his felonies &c. excepting the death of the ministers and the Mayor of Chester and Ed. Becheton.

ROULEGH, THOS. DE. Is on May 8, 1357, exempted from the office of Sheriff, Coroner, or any other office in the County of Chester.

SIDDINGTON, HUGH DE (Sydyngton) present at the battle. Pardoned (April 6 and Aug. 15, 1357). I cannot ascertain his crimes.

SIMONDESSONE, ROGER of Mottrum. On account of his good and agreeable services, "bons et greables services," at the battle, a warrant (dated July 4, 1357) and a license (Decr. 21, 1358), are made for an enfeoffment by Richard C. Stanley, one of the foresters of Macclesfield, to be made to Joyouse his daughter, on her marriage with the said Roger, of the inheritance by serjeantry of the said Richard in the forest of Macclesfield.

The remaining portion of this List shall be given in next week's SHEAF. J. H.

Queries.

[1066] ST. MARY'S CHURCH, CHESTER.

A copy of the *Dewsbury Reporter* newspaper for Dec. 13, 1879, was recently sent to me by an unknown correspondent, with a paragraph specially marked, referring to the above-named Chester church. It occurs in an article on the Church Briefs collected during a long series of years in the pariah church of Dewsbury. Among the Briefs enumerated by the editor, we read as follows under the date

"1665. Collected in our church, June the eighteenth, towards the rebuilding of the Pariah Church of St. MARIES in the city of CHESTER, the summe of fower shillings."

To what can this refer? St. Mary's Church must have been built some centuries prior to the above date. A writer quoted in the above-named article says of these Briefs,

"The repair or rebuilding of churches in post-Reformation days, until nearly the beginning of the modern revival, was almost invariably effected by this method."

If so, the collections elsewhere must have ranged on a higher scale than this "summe of fower shillings" sent from Dewsbury, or the money would have scarcely paid the cost of transmission to Chester.

G. T.

Replies.

[1067] THE "PRUDENT BOKE" OF CHESTER CATHEDRAL.

[No. 389.—Nov. 27, 1878.]

I am clearly of opinion that the "Prudent Boke," included in the Sale of the PRESCOT library at Stockport in 1823, and about which Mr. EARWAKER enquired as above, was a misnomer of the clerk who drew up the Catalogue of the Sale. There is no notice whatever in any of the Chapter documents at Chester (and I have transcripts of almost all) of any such strangely named volume.

But there is frequent mention there and elsewhere, but especially in the *Notitia Cestriensis* of Bishop Gastrell, Vol. I. [Chetham Society] of a "Pres. B.D. & C.," which the late Canon Raines, its careful and usually correct editor, almost uniformly extends into "Presentation Book Dean and Chapter." It is singular that the Canon should have stuck so closely to this rendering; for at p. 126 of the Chetham volume, he found the old Bishop there writing, "Presid. B.," i.e., "President (Precedent) Book," which is beyond doubt

the title in every instance meant by his Lordship. Almost equally certain, too, was it the Book for which Mr. Earwaker enquires: for if he will write Precedent in the contracted form it would assume in the 16th century—"P'cedent Boke," he will condone the illiterate catalogue-maker's error in writing it down 'Prudent.'

The Volume was manifestly in the Chapter's possession in 1715, and I have little doubt it was in the Rev. Prebendary Prescott's hands when he was deprived of his stall some time before his death, and was never returned to the Chapter chest.

Cannot Mr. Earwaker find out what became of this valuable MS. volume? T. HUGHES.

[1068] MICHAEL DOUGHTY.

[No. 964.—Decr. 31.]

The Doughty family hailed originally from Hanworth, co. Norfolk, in the reign of Edward IV.; and the one whom Mr. H. TAYLOR enquires about was probably a cadet of that family, who, with a near relative, had accepted posts in the household of Henry, Earl of Derby, who seems to have kept an almost royal court at Knowsley and Lathom.

We first meet with MICHAEL DOUGHTY in 1586, when he was serving the apparently menial, but really exalted, office of a Clerk of the Kitchen to Earl Henry. The late Canon Raines says of him that he "was an influential and wealthy man, and his office was both dignified and honourable." It was while acting in this capacity that, no doubt by the Derby influence, he was elected M.P. for the Flintshire Boroughs on Oct. 3, 1586. He resigned the boroughs at the end of that parliament; and was returned to the next, in 1588, as Member for Preston, exchanging that again in 1592 for the representation of Liverpool, which seat he held until 1597.

While of the Earl's household he married Cecily, daughter to Thomas Nelson, of Wrightington and Mawdesley, co. Lancaster, gent., and had four sons, the eldest of whom, Henry, he named after his noble master. He purchased (we think from Lord Derby) the manor of Thornton-cum-Wheatley and other landed property; and was succeeded therein by his third but eldest surviving son, John, who settled finally at Colne Hall in the same county.

Mr. Payne Collier (*Egerton Papers*—Camden Society, 1840, p. 489) speaks of him as Secretary to Lord Derby, the correctness of which Canon Raines doubts; but from a letter now before us, addressed by him from Lathom on March 7, 1589, to "the right worshipfull my good frende Mr. Cotgreve, Maior of Chester," we are of opinion that he did hold the post of Secretary, at the very time he was representing Liverpool in parliament. A namesake of his of both names, probably a nephew, was appointed a Founder of the King's School, Chester, in 1592, on the nomination of the Earl's friend,

Dean Nutter, Rector of Sephton and Anghton, Lancashire, and of Bebington, Cheshire.

Among the *Egerton Papers*, above referred to, is a curious "Memorandum," as to a trunk of family deeds deposited for safe custody with Lord Ellesmere (then Sir Thomas Egerton) by William Earl of Derby. We will transcribe this here, as the latest glimpse we have caught of MICHAEL DOUGHTY, though it would probably be found that he remained attached to Lord Derby's household to the end of his days.

"23^o Septembris, 1594.

M'd, that Sir Thomas Egerton, Knight, M'r of the Rolles, dyd receyve into his custodie, the day and yeare above written, of Mr. Michaell Doughtie, servant to the Earle of Derby, and of Mr. Hugh Ellis, servant of the Ladye Ales, Countesse of Derby, one Trunk with Evidence, bounde vppe in pack-cloth, sowed uppe and sealed with the seale of the sayd Earle by the sayd Mr. Doughtie, and by the sayd Mr. Ellis with his owne seale, on behalfe of the Countesse, to be kept by the sayd Sir Thomas Egerton, by entreatie of the sayd Earle and Countesse, as he would kepe his owne Evidenche, in the presence of these witnesses

Hen. Johnes	F. Bacon
Jo. Panton	Mich. Doughtie
	Hughe Ellis

Octobr' 30.—M'd. that the same daye, 1594, wee, Michael Doughtie and Hughe Ellis, servants to the saide Erle and Countesse, receyved the saide Trunke and Evidence, to thuse of the saide Erle and Countesse, to be broughte public into the Court of Wardes, according to the order there, in the presence of theise persons whose names be underwrytten.

Thomas Spencer	MICHL. DOUGHTIE
Robert Calotte	HUGH ELLIS

Indorsed, "23^o Septembris, 1594. A Memorand. of receipt of a Trunke, with evidence concerning the now Earle, of the L. Ales, Countess Dowager of Derby."

The body of the document itself is stated by Mr. Payne Collier to be in the handwriting of Lord Bacon, one of the witnesses,—the memorandum as to the trunk produced to the Court of Wards was written by Michael Doughtie. EDITOR.

[1069] CHOLMONDELEY HOUSE, CHESTER.

[Nos. 993, 1026.—Jan. 21, Feb. 11.]

I was rather surprised to read that this House is situate in Northgate-street. The family had a Hall in St. John's Churchyard before the Siege, which was at that unfortunate period destroyed with many others; as we may learn from King's *Vale Royal* and Hemingway's *Chester*,—the latter author on the authority of Randle Holme, an eye witness of the Siege and an alderman of the city.

It is possible that, after the destruction of this Hall, the Cholmondeleys took the site of the house which is mentioned in No. 1026. J. H.

MARCH 17, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

March 19.—Beeston Hall burnt by the Royalists under Prince Rupert	1645
„ 20.—Thomas Moreton, Bishop of Chester, born at York	1564
„ 21.—Great Public Rejoicings at Chester to celebrate the first Marquis of Westminster's 70th Birthday	1837
„ 22.—Robert, first Marquess of Westminster, born	1767
„ 23.—The Mersey, sloop of war, launched at Mr. Courtney's ship-yard at the Crane, Chester	1814

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1070] THE MASOYS OF TATTON.

Four hundred and sixty years ago there were serious dissensions and feuds in this ancient Cheshire family as to the right of succession. It was primarily a ladies' quarrel, for the widow of one Masoy, and the mother of another, fell at variance as to the tenancy for life of the family estates, and recourse had to be had to the arbitrement of the law.

Thomas Masoy, eldest son of Sir John Masoy of Tatton, having succeeded his father in the family estates, had himself died the year before the trial, 1420, issueless; but his widow Margaret, with the perverseness of her sex, refused to recognise the just rights of Geoffrey, her brother-in-law, or to budge an inch from her hold upon the property. Accordingly the old mother-in-law intervened on her son's behalf, and a writ of *ouster le main* was issued to recover the estates for the rightful heir. The struggle was brought to a close by the following Award of the Judge who tried the Cause. The original document is preserved among the valuable series of deeds of the Masoy and Domville families, remaining in the custody of Capt. R. Masoie Taylor, of Tyn Llwyn, near Corwen, by whose courtesy I am enabled to place it on permanent record in THE CHESHIRE SHEAF.

"Yis endent'e Wittenes y't y'as Alice y't was Wif to John ye masoy, knyght, and Geffray hir son', on ye tone p'te, & merget y't was Wif to Thom's ye Masoy on ye toy' p'te, were pit in ye award, orden'noe, & arbit'ment of James of ye Holt, of all man' acc'ons realx & p'sonels, querels & desbates: ye forsayd James, chalanges & onswares herd & desbated, ordeynes, awardest, & mas arbit'ment, y't ye

forsayd mergret pay to ye forsayd Alice, al ye rent y't was by hynde in ye lyne of ye forsayd Thom's, for lond y't ye forsayd Thom's held of ye forsayd Alice, & a reasonable principall as hir ogh to do by custom of ye Cuntre.

Also ye forsayd James ordeynes awardest & mas arbit'ment y't ye forsayd mergret hold & hane to t'me of hir lyne xxli worth on' all ye repris of y't lond in ye queche ye forsayd Thom's & mergret wen enfeffet In Joyntly, in ye lyne of s'r John ye massey by ye forsayd s'r John ye massey.

And also y't ye forsayd mergret shall hane seyre estat to t'me of hir lyne of meses, londes, and ten'ts to ye valew of xvi. on' all ye rep's, in couenable plas of ye londes & ten'tz y't were of ye forsayd s'r John ye massey; of ye queche xxxvii. worth of lond ye forsayd mergret shall be maket sewre by ye forsayd Alice & Geffray by ye avys of yair bothers counsell, at ye ou'syght & orden'noe of ye forsayd James.

And also ye forsayd mergret shall make sewre estat of all ye remen't of ye lond y't were ye forsayd Thom's to ye forsayd Geffray & hys ayres, be avis of yair bothers counsell, at ye avis, ou'sight & orden'noe of ye forsayd James; sauand alonly c'tayn londes & ten'ts in Aldelem & Swanbache, ye queche ye forsayd Thom's p'chaset of Henre of Bryddesmere, ye queche londes & ten'tz arn not comp'hendet in yis award.

Also ye forsayd James ordeynes & awardest y't ye forsayd mergret, betwene yis & ye fest of pasq's, deliu' & betake to ye forsayd Geffray all ye dedes & munymetz y't sho has, or may gete, or had sythen ye deth of ye forsayd Thom's, y't apperten to ye heritage of ye forsayd s'r John ye massey; savand all only yos dedes by ye queche ye forsayd mergret shall hold ye forsayd xxxvii. worth of lond to t'me of hir lyne. Also ye forsayd mergret shall gyf as gode enformac'on & knowlage as sho con or may quere & in quos possession any dedes bene y't apperten to ye forsayd heritage.

Also ye forsayd James awardest & ordeyns y't ye forsayd mergret shall pay to ye forsayd Geffray Ca. at ye festes of mydsom' & martyumas next comyng, by euen p'cions, for all ye pryncipals & ayre lomes y't ye forsayd Geffray ogh to hane by custom of ye Cuntre.

Also ye forsayd James awardest y't ye forsayd mergret shall pay to ye forsayd Geffray for en'e acre of lond y't sho has sawen, xviiij, ad ye fest of mydsom' next comyng; and y't ye forsayd mergret pay to ye forsayd Geffray at the fest of ye an'ncia-on of owre lady next comyng, for en'e best y't sho has lying owt in ye desmayns at Tatton, as syche valew as is vsual to be taken for wynt' gyst, in ye same man'; and at ye forsayd fest, or w'tin thre dayes aft', sho shall take all her catall away y't lys out. And ye forsayd mergret shall hane ye occupac'on of all ye bernes, shipens & gestable w't out ye zates necessare for hir corn & hir catall, w't fre entre & issu, vnto ye Inuenc'on of ye holy Croys next comyng.

In wit'nes of yis award, to yee endent'es ye forsayd James has sette to hys seall. Geuen ye ix day of Januere, ye zere of ye regne of kyng henro ye fyfthe aft' ye conquest viij'o."

Red seal pendent, impressed with a capital letter H under a crown.

The wording of this Deed is quite a study for the philologist; for the document bristles with old words and forms of expression which, but for the context, would puzzle the brains of many even of the correspondents of THE SHEAF.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1071] OSWESTRY RACES 80 YEARS AGO.

The following flowery bit of composition appeared in the *Chester Courant*, in October, 1803. In those days people were wont to see on country race-courses greater numbers of the aristocracy and fewer betting-stands than is, I fear, the case now:—

"Oswestry, Sept. 29, 1803.

Our races, which ended on Wednesday last, were never better attended. The assemblage of the neighbouring nobility and gentry was crowded beyond all example, and their expectations gratified by a display of beauty, wit, and elegance, by a profusion of delicacies and an exhibition of amusements, such as few countries, few tables, and few races, can boast. The sport on the two first days was good, and on the last was of superior excellence. If the well-contested rivalry of the noble animals, if the joyous heart of a collected multitude, and the splendid display of brilliant equipages, could add to the magnificence of resplendent days and extensive prospects, then might it be said that the gladdened face of nature had condescended to seek embellishment from the vicinity of Oswestry.

Our elegant Lady Patroness, Miss Charlotte Williams Wynn, shone with peculiar lustre, and diffused a spirit of gaiety that was caught and confirmed by the concordant feelings of the whole company. There might one see love and beauty commingling in the mystic dance, to brighten every eye and gladden every heart. It is difficult to avoid the language of bombast in using terms that are barely adequate to the splendour of the spectacle and the festivity of the meeting.

Amongst the numerous contributors to this constellation of wit and beauty we noticed the lovely and bewitching Lady Dungannon and her festive Lord; the amiable and sprightly Misses Cunliffe, with their lively and accomplished friend, the sweetly pretty Miss Henrietta Williams Wynn; the fair and elegant daughter of our respected steward, Owen Ormsby, Esq.; the gaily blooming Miss Jodrell; the charming and fascinating Mrs. R. Wingfield; with

the much-admired Misses Lloyd, of Aston, Kynastons, Bevans, Warringtons, Mytton, Herberts, Venables, the Dobbs, and other beauties too many to be enumerated and too excellent to be described.

For the ensuing year were named Lord Dungannon, and the Hon. T. Kenyon, as our stewards; and it was with peculiar pleasure that we heard the interesting Miss Owen, of Woodhouse, announced as the succeeding Lady Patroness, more especially when we reflect on the alarming accident that had nearly snatched her from us, together with her cheerful and engaging sister, and had almost deprived us of the valuable lives of their brother and the fashionable Mr. E. Davenport; for, on returning from the ball of Monday last, their carriage was overturned into the canal, and themselves with difficulty rescued from a watery grave, by the timely exertion and intrepidity of a passing pig man."

The "elegant Lady Patroness" became, three years afterwards, the wife of Col. Shipley, son of the Dean of St. Asaph; and the "sweetly pretty Miss Henrietta Williams Wynn" was, in 1810, married to Thomas Cholmondeley, Esq., of Vale Royal; and became the mother of the present Lord Delamere, and of the Hon. Thomas Cholmondeley, of the 1st Cheshire Militia.

The "alarming accident" of the last paragraph is related with a curious amount of unction, to which the intrepidity of the "passing pig man" forms a not unsuitable climax.

Newton.

H.

[1072] THE BATTLE OF POICTIERS.

(Completed from last week.)

In the previous article on this topic, I gave the names of some CHESHIRE yeomen and others who are described in the Palatinate Records as having been present at the above-named great historic battle. The following are also set down as having served in the Gascon campaign, though possibly not taking part in the actual field of POICTIERS:—

CHORLEY, WM. DE. Has granted (Nov. 12, 1357) the custody of the park of Maccolesfield, with 40s. yearly and one robe or 10s.

CROUTHERE, RICH. DE. May 14 and Oct. 2, 1357, Warrant and pardon for all his felonies &c., the death of the ministers excepted.

CUNDECLYF, ROBT. DE. Served as an archer under Robt. de Legh, Junr.

DOKESEYE, RICH. DE. Baker to Prince Edward, is awarded on Feb. 8, 1357, an annuity of £10 for services in Gascony and England, to be received of the issue of the mills and oven at Maccolesfield.

DOWNES, NICHOLAS DE. Aug. 11, 1357. Similar to Crouthere.

HAMOND, JOHN—Similar to Cundeclif.

HARTHILL (Hurtull), SIMON DE. Pardoned (Aug. 20, 1357) for the death of David de Broxon, the

death of the Prince's ministers, and of Norden and Becheton, being excepted in the pardon.

HOOTON, ROBT. DE. Similar to Crouthere.

JOUBRELL, WM. has granted, May 11th, 1357, two oaks for the repair of his houses.

LEGH, ROBERT DE, Junior. He served in Gascony with archers under him.

MON, PHILIP LE. May 26, 1358, Warrant to grant a lease for life to him of . . . land in Skypbrok (Shipbroke) at 6s. yearly, and of 3½ acres of land on . . . Rudheath at 4s 7d yearly, held by him for a term. (*Record defective.*)

This same man, on Oct. 1, has leased to him by the Prince 37½ acres of land and a moiety of 1 rood 17½ perches of land, lying in two parcels on Rudheath, and lately held by Roger Trumpyngton, chevalier, for 20 years, at 4½s. yearly.

MOTTEAM, ADAM DE. Pardoned for all felonies, save for the usual exceptions.

MOTTEAM, HUGH DE. Exempted from serving on Juries and Assizes, and released from a yearly rent of 2d. for residing in the advowries of Chester, and all other services due on account of the said advowries.

POVER, HUGH DE. May 21, 1357, pardoned for all felonies but the death of Norden and of Becheton.

SWETTENHAM, ROGER. Exempted from serving on Juries and Assizes.

TORKYNGTON, JOHN DE. Pardoned for robbing John de Hull.

TWEMBROKES, THOS. DE, granted, Feb. 1358, pasturage for 6 beasts in Frodsham Marsh, called "le Rowemersh," in reward for services in Gascony.

WARDE, HUGH DE. Warrant, May 26th, 1358, to grant pardon and release of 4 . . . rent yearly for residence within the advowries of Chester, on account of the services of NICHOLAS DE BOSTOCK his son in Gascony. (*Record defective.*)

WINNINGTON, WM. DE. May 26th, 1358. Warrant for pardon, with a lease for life of 6 acres of land, at 9d. per acre, on "Rudheath More," held by him for a term.

WINNINGTON, ROBERT DE. Pardoned, same day, for his services in Gascony."

In the above lists mention is made of the death of the Prince's ministers. From my scanty store I am unable to find out who they were, and what their errand was. Will someone enlighten me on the subject; also, on another, the death of Bartholomew, or Bertram, Northen, Northden, or Norworthyn (for it is so variously spelled), Mayor of Chester, 1340? Who, too, was Richard de Becheton? Besides those mentioned in the above lists, I find connected with their death Richard Dyton, who is mentioned in the *Vale Royal* as being pardoned by 150 marks; his pardon is dated Dec. 28th, 1350. John del Carpenter was also concerned in their death; he was pardoned March 10th, 1360, at the request of John de Wynewik, keeper of the Privy Seal of Edward III.

J. H.

Queries.[1073] **THOMAS LUNT.**

It would be interesting if some of your correspondents could give some further particulars than I am here able to do of the life of that celebrated local builder, THOMAS LUNT, who I am inclined to think was born at Tattenhall, in this county.

He built the UNION HALL, Foregate-street, in 1809; also, in 1815, he erected the COMMERCIAL HALL, on the northern side of the same street, in the short space of five weeks.

He also erected the houses now known as BOLD SQUARE, which he named after Madam Bold, the back of whose house, now Churton's Auction Mart, opened into the land.

The greater part of EGERTON STREET was built by him, with, I think, the Bridge across the Canal to connect it with Seller-street, named after Mr. Seller, the brewer.

A few years before his death he invented a new kind of Railway, of which he made a working model, which he exhibited. Its peculiarity was that the carriages had no wheels, but slid along a series of pulleys by means of endless ropes which turned the pulleys by stationary engines.

B. O.

[1074] **AGNES DE RIDLEY.**

Who was she, and which family of the Ridleys did she marry into? Her tombstone in St. John's Church is, unfortunately, broken and the date almost destroyed. The inscription is:—" + Hic . iacet . Agnes . vxor . Ricl . de . Riclegh . quæ . obiit . die . Sabbati . Pxl . an . fm . Phi . et . iacob . A . . . cox"—"Here lies Agnes, wife of Richard de Riclegh, who died on the Sabbath-day next before the Feast of Philip and James the Apostles A (nno) () cox ()

Can the year be supplied?

J. H.

[1075] **PENNANT'S "TOUR FROM CHESTER TO LONDON."**

There were two editions of this tour published: the first by the celebrated tourist himself in 1782, and the second "*with notes*" in 1811, or thirteen years after Thomas Pennant's death. Besides the "*notes*," however, many new paragraphs were inserted in the text of the later edition. Here is an example specially interesting, and concerning which I am anxious to obtain information.

"Among some lumber in this [Nantwich] Church, I found the fragments of a white smooth monument, with the following inscription:—

'Johannes Crew,

Ex antiqua familia de Crew oriundus

Vir Pius

Susceptam ex Alicia Manwaring,

Uxore reliquit sobolem

Ranulphum, Thomam, Lucretiam, Prudentiam.

Vixit Annos 74. Obiit

An'o Do' 1598.'

The two sons were brought up to the law. Randle became Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and was the founder of the respectable house of Crew, near this town. Thomas was Speaker of the House of Commons in the latter end of the reign of James I. and in the first Parliament of Chas. I. The father of John Crew was a wealthy tanner of this town, whom tradition still records by the name of Golden Roger, who had a small monument in the church, with a figure of himself and wife, which an aged lady born in the parish remembered standing."

Statements at variance with each other have been made concerning this John Crew. The writer of the above extract distinctly says the *father* of John Crew was a tanner, and less clearly seems to say that John Crew was locally known by the cognomen of "Golden Roger." The historian of Barthomley, while quoting the familiar couplet,

"Sir Randle Crews, the Lord of this manor,
Was born at Nantwich, the son of a Tanner,"

expresses a doubt as to the truthfulness of the rhyme; yet another biographer, Mr. T. W. Barlow, in "*Cheshire Biographies*," says "his (i.e., Ranulph Crew's) father, a tanner, laboured under the pressure of reduced means at the time of his son's birth." This last statement appears to be an improbable assumption; and it is absurd to suppose that a *needy* tradesman could have brought up his two sons to the highest department of the profession of the law.

The only original record relating to John Crews, the father of the celebrated Lord Chief Justice, that I have hitherto seen, is the single line recording his burial at Nantwich, which reads thus:—

"1598. Dec. 20: John Crews, of the Aspell Street, Gent."

Who was the author of the above paragraph, taken from the 1811 edition of Pennant's Tour? and can the tradition therein referred to be substantiated or refuted by any known evidence?

Willaston, Nantwich.

JAS. HALL.

Replies.[1076] **OLD CHESTER.**

[Nos. 269, 1059.—Sept. 25, 1878; Mar. 8, 1880.]

HERMENTRUDE is surely wrong in saying that "Caerlleon Guar Usio" is now known as Usk. Usk and Caerlleon are distinct places; and since the latter has been opened up by railway communication, many go to see the

remains of "Arthur's Round Table" (!) and the very interesting museum, wholly stored with valuable antiquarian relics dug up on the spot.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. B.

[1077] THE PANCAKE BELL.

[Nos. 1034, 1060.—Feb. 18, March 3.]

Not only was this Bell an institution of Middlewyche in my time, but also the CURFEW BELL. Whether modern economy or innovation may now have abolished these old customs there, I cannot tell. But as the consequences of the latter Bell have been very graphically and accurately described in verses, written some years ago by a friend of mine—the late Rev. Chas. O'Niel Pratt, sometime onrate of Middlewyche—I send a copy for THE SHEAF:—

"The Pancake Bell.

What sound is that which greets mine ear,
As it sweeps along through the sky so clear?
Of millions of Chickens it rings the knell,
For I wot it is the Pancake Bell.

Full many a farm-yard cock hath crowed,
And tender love on his wives bestowed;
But over her brood has waved the spell,
As sure as she hears the Pancake Bell.

And many a hen her store has watched,
And counted her chickens as yet unhatched;
For the farmer's wife those eggs will sell,
As sure as she hears the Pancake Bell.

And the housekeeper goes to the huxter's shop,
And the eggs are brought home, and there's flop!
flop! flop!

And there's batter, and butter, and savoury smell,
While merrily rings the Pancake Bell.

And with frizzle and fizz the condiments toss'd
And dished, and dusted with sugary frost,
And the youngsters at home the fun can tell,
That follows the sound of the Pancake Bell.

And into the batter will Mistress fling
That mystic token, the marriage ring,
And the bosom of many a maid will swell
With hope as she hears the Pancake Bell.

For if smiles and loving looks be true,
Someone may whisper a word or two;
And when Lent is over, then Easter will tell
Its old, old story—the Wedding Bell."

Tushingham Hall.

B. LL. V.

[1078] SIR WATKIN'S FRUGAL BANQUET.

[No. 1064.—March 3, 1880.]

The account of a "spread" your correspondent has found amongst his old papers originally appeared in the *Gentleman's Magazine* and in the *Annual Register*. It was on the occasion of the coming of age of the grandfather of the present baronet; a precocious gentleman, who was married and became a widower in 1769; came of age in 1770; and was again married in 1771. "S. S." has not copied the document accurately,

or else his copy is faulty. For instance, for "120 dozen of ale" we must read "wine;" and "70 pigs" should be "pies;" for "280 pottles of French beans," there is simply "200 French beans;" then there were 3, not 30 dishes of green peas, &c., &c. When the present Sir Watkin came of age there was an enormous consumption of viands, but the feasting lasted a week. Both bills of fare are given in *Wyndstay and the Wynns*.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. B.

MARCH 24, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

March 24.—Empress of Austria passed through Chester by rail	1879
" 25.—Edward Parry, author of <i>Royal Visits to Wales</i> , died at Chester	1854
" 26.—Quo Warranto Trial at Shrewsbury on the Chester Corporation Elections..	1814
" 27.—Walter Offley, M.A., installed 22nd Dean of Chester	1718
" 28.—Quo Warranto Trial at Chester on the validity of the Corporation Elections.....	1733
" 29.—Sir Robert Cotton, of Combermere, Kt., created a Baronet	1677
" 30.—John Nutter (or Nuttall), 9th Dean of Chester, died	1602

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1079] POTT SHRIGLEY CHAPEL.

We present to our readers to-day a very interesting 15th century Will, relating to the Chantry Chapel of POTT SHRIGLEY, on the north-east side of Cheshire. It is not often that we are able to read, in the very words of a man who had himself founded and endowed a Church in pre-Reformation days, what his exact wishes were as to its maintenance in the future: but here we have Master GEOFFREY DOWNES entering into very minute details as to how his "Chapple" is to be administered after he should be gathered to his fathers. Let the Document itself now tell the story:—

"CHAPEL IN POTT SHRIGLEY.

THIS is the last Will of mee, GEOFFREY DOWNES, made 20th Day June, the 7th year of King Hennerly the 7th (1492) concerni'g my Lands and Tennements with their Appurtenances within the Shire of Chester, and all things that I will have done in a

Chapple of my foundation, Called DOWNES CHAPPLE in PORT SHERIGLEY, in the s'd County of Chester.

First, I will that my Fefees of trust in all my s'd Lands and Tennements with their appurtenances within the s'd County of Chester, stand still my Fefees to this intent; that all the profitts of the same lands & Tennements with their appurtenances goe to the finding of two Preists in a Chapple their of my foundation, called DOWNES CHAPPLE, and to doe other things according to my Will as followeth.

Also I will that Rob't DOWNES and his Heirs depute and Assigne an able, discreet and well disposed Preist perpetually and dayly dosing Devine Service in the s'd Chapple att the Alter, which Alter is of our Lady; which Preist is founded by my Lady DAME JANE INGOLDESTHORP and the s'd GEOFFREY, for to pray for the Souls of the s'd Jane & Geoffrey, and for the Souls of them whose Names ben written in the Booke of the Brotherhood, and for all the Souls in manner & form as in the s'd Book appeareth.

And also I will that when it shall happen the s'd Preist to be Changed any time, that the said Rob't call to him certaine of the Sadest men that Longen [belong] to the s'd Chapple, soe that the Vicar of PARSBURY be one if he will; and the s'd Rob't, by the advice of himself and them, to provide another able Preist to doe Devine Service att the s'd Alter. And if it happen the s'd Preist make any default to bee put out, then the s'd Rob't, Calling to him such Council as is abovesaid, And if hee and his Council think the Cause reasonable to put him out, then they to put him out; and the s'd Rob't or his Heirs with such Council as is afforesaid shall provide for an other able [Preist] within the space of 13 weeks, and that money that should goe to the Preist in that space that it shall happen to bee voide, to go to the reperation of the said Chapple during the time it shall so happen to bee voide.

And as oft as it shall happen the s'd Rob't and his Heirs to Assigne or Depute any Preist to sing in the s'd Chapple att the s'd Alter of our Lady, hee or his Heirs shall Cause the same Preist soe Assigned and deputed, and Sureties sufficient with him, to bee bounden to the s'd Rob't and his Heirs in an Obligation of a sufficient Sum, on this Condition; that the s'd Preist shall continually and daily be dwelling and bee at Comyn table and board within PORT SHERIGLEY, and in noe other place; and to keep and sustaine all Robes, Vestments, and Ornaments that shall bee deliver'd to him by a bill indented, and them not to leenen or take out of the Chapple, but, att such time as hee shall leave his Servis, deliver them again to the s'd Rob't or to his Heirs, to the intent abovesaid.

And also, I will that the s'd Preist sing dayly, when he is disposed of our Lady or of John Saie, when hee is disposed to say any other Mass, or when hee shall say Mass of Requiem; and then that hee say a Memory of our Lady or else of Jno.; and where that ever hee sing Mass, and whereof that hee sing, that hee say *de profundis* att

the Lavatore, for the foundera] Jane and Geoffrey, and for all the Brethern and Sintern, as is above-said.

Also, I will that the s'd Preist of our Lady, every feast of our Lady, and in the five feasts of our LORD, set a Candle brenning afore the Image of our Lady, and also afore the Image of John; and that hee then shew the intent of the legend Longing for the five s'd feasts of our Lady and of our LORD, that is to say, every day the legend that longeth to the day.

And also, I will that the s'd Preist keep noe horse, ne Hawke, ne Hound, ne nothing that should destroy, or lett him from the service of God; for and hee will not tend his booke, ne writing, ne teaching of Children, ne his beades, ne other virtuous occupations, I will y't hee bee not their. Also, I will that the s'd Preist goe Preistly arrayed with his Gown and his hood.

Also, my will is that the s'd Preist soe Assigned and deputed by the s'd Robert or his Heirs, if soe be the s'd Rob't, his Heirs or their Wives, bee sick, [so] that y'e may not come to the s'd Chappell; that the s'd Preist say Mass 2 times in the week before them and there Wifes being sick, in their own place att WORTH or else att SHERIGLEY, for that time y'e shall bee sick, Soe that hee say Mass their before them on noe Holliday, So that y'e find place and all things convenient to the s'd Preist.

Also, I will y't the said Rob't ne his Heirs Depute ne Assigne noe Preist to the s'd Chappel that is sib or of alliance within the degrees of Marriage to any Knight or Esq'r within the s'd County of Chester, lest y't if hee made a faut to be put out, they might not put him out withouten maugre of his friends, for I had rather y't there were noe Preist there, then to maintaine an enemy of God.

Also, I will that the s'd Preist att the Lavatory turn him to the People, & exort all them to pray for they foundera of that Chapple, Jane & Geoffrey, & for all the Brethern & Sintern whose names ben in the booke of the Brotherhood, & y't hee say *de profundis* himself with them y't help him to say Mass. Also, I will y't the s'd Preist on every first Sunday in Lent read the names of all ye Brethern & Sintern in ye Audiance of ye People in ye s'd Chappell.

Also, I will that the s'd Preist so assigned & deputed as is affores'd, do abide for noe man in Saying his Divine Service, but y't hee att an hour convenient say his Divine Service; So y't hee say Mass after 8 of the Clock, hollyday and workday, & begin Mattens on the holliday between 7 & 8 of the Clock, after the Pelles conveniently rongen. And Evening song on the Holliday & on the even, in Summer time at 4 of the Clock, or between 4 and 5 of the Clock, & in the Winter time at 8 of the Clock, or between 3 & 4 of the Clock, So y't it bee said within the Church or the Church yard. And y't one of the Preists be ever there, what casualty y't ever happens.

Also, I will that if the great Bell break, y't then
 Ros'r Downes or his Heirs & ye Brethern of our
 Lady & Jno: make them an Ale for the makeing of
 y't Bell; & if it bee soe y't the Ale & the increse of
 the Brotherhood of our Lady and Jno: will not make
 the s'd Bell agen, I will y't they p'vey aswuch [*sic?*]
 for the s'd Preist of our Lady & Jno: for a year, &
 the lands and Tenements with the Appurtinances
 y't Longen to ye s'd Preist to goe to the makeing of
 ye s'd Bell as for y't year, and then ye s'd Preist to
 be restored agean to his survis."

The remaining portion of this very curious and early
 Cheshire Will shall be given next week.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[1080] CAPTAIN ARTHUR WATKIN WILLIAMS
 WYNN.

Five and twenty years ago, the 23rd ROYAL WELSH
 FUSILIERS were stationed at CHESTER CASTLE. It was
 just before the outbreak of the Crimean War: and of
 the Regiment which then left our city preparatory to
 the hostilities, eight gallant officers fell, only a few
 months afterwards, storming the heights of the ALMA.
 One of these was the brave son of the Right Hon. Sir
 Henry W. Williams Wynn, H.M. Plenipotentiary at
 Copenhagen, and first cousin of the present much-
 venerated owner of Wynnstay: and of him it is
 recorded that, after actually scaling the heights, he was
 mown down close to the death-dealing Russian guns.

The following touching Lament was written at the
 time by Sir Francis Hastings Doyle, Bart., a first cousin
 by marriage to Sir Watkin and to the gallant young
 Welshman who perished in the arms of Victory:—

"TO THE MEMORY
 OF THE LATE
 CAPTAIN ARTHUR WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNN,
 OF THE
 23RD ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS, WHO FELL AT ALMA.

"There lay Col. CHESTER, and four of his gallant
 Officers, with their faces to the sky."—Morning paper.
 "He had gone right up to the gun."—Private letter.

I.

When, from grim Alma's blood-stained height,
 There came the sound of woe
 And, in the first and latest fight,
 That noble head was low,—
 Fond hearts, that writhed beneath the blow,
 Were tortured with keen thirst to know
 How, ere their loved and lost one bled,
 By Fate's cold hand, the gloomy thread
 Of that last hour was spun:
 And yearnings, from his English home,
 Bounded across the ocean foam,—

"Where did ye find my son?"

The answer, from that fatal ground,
 Came pealing with a trumpet sound,—

"Close to the Russian gun!
 With many a gallant friend around him,
 In one proud death—'twas thus we found him."

II.

"His look, though soft, was calm and high,
 His face was gazing on the sky,
 As if he said—'Man cannot die,
 Though all below be done,'

Thus was it that we saw him lie,
 Beneath the Russian gun.
 Right up the hill our soldiers sped,
 No hurrying in their earnest tread;
 The iron thunder broke in storms,
 Again, and yet again,—
 On their firm ranks and stately forms
 It did but break in vain.

Though yet untrained by war to bear
 The battle's deadly brunt,
 The ancient heart of Wales was there,
 Still rushing to the front!"—

Their blood flowed fast along those steeps,

But the proud goal was won;
 And the moon shone on silent heaps,
 Beyond the Russian gun:

'Twas thus, with friends he loved around him,
 Among the foremost dead they found him.

III.

Oh! there are bitter tears for thee,
 Young sleeper by the Eastern sea;
 Grief that thy glory cannot tame,
 That will not cease to ache,
 Anguish no words can fitly name,
 In hearts that fain would break.
 Still, thy brave bearing on that day
 Lends those pale lips its strength to pray,
 "Thy will, oh God! be done!
 We bow before Thy living throne,
 And thank Thee for the mercy shewn,
 E'en when Thy summons dread was thrown
 Forth from the Russian gun."

No agony that gasps for breath,
 Lengthened its hopeless hours of death;
 No fevered longing woke in vain,
 For those he ne'er could see again:
 By noble thoughts and hopes befriended,
 By honour to the last attended,
 His haughty step the hill ascended.
 At once!—his brain and hand reposed,
 At once! his dauntless life was closed;
 One mystic whirl of mighty change—
 One sea-like rush of blackness strange,—
 And all the roaring tumult dim
 Was cold, and dark, and still, for him;
 No pain could rack, no fever parch,
 That form whose course was run;
 So ended his majestic march

Up to the Russian gun,
 For there, with friends he loved around him,
 Serene as sleep, the searchers found him.

IV.

And still, for ever fresh and young,
 His honoured memory shall shine,
 A light that never sets, among
 The trophies of his ancient line—
 Yea—though the sword may seem to kill,
 Each noble name is living still,
 A ray of glory's sun;
 And children of a future day,
 Each, in his time, shall proudly say,
 "I bear the name of one,
 Who in that first great fight of our's
 Against the lawless Tyrant's powers,
 Upon the red Crimean sod,
 Went down, for Liberty and God,
 Close by the Russian gun!"
 For there, with friends he loved around him,
 Among the *free-born* dead they found him!"
 11th October, 1854. F. H. DOYLE.

CAMERO-BRITON.

Queries.

[1081] JOHN LE SEBJAVN.

Who was he? His gravestone we so often see in St. John's Church that curiosity prompts me to ask this question. J. H.

[1082] DE QUINCEY'S MOTHER.

In one of his numerous books, THOMAS DE QUINCEY "the opium-eater" refers frequently to his mother's residence in a house once existing in the Priory Ruins of St. John's Church, Chester. No such house is now to be found, nor am I aware that any engraving, drawing, or photograph of it is now available. A friend who in his youth, 50 years ago, used to visit the house, informs me that it stood on very ancient foundations, and that portions of it were not devoid of architectural interest. Will some one afford me a few further particulars of a house that may fairly claim to be historic, from its relation to De Quincey?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

Replies.

[1083] NIELD'S ORCHARD.

[No. 831.—September 24.]

I am quite unexpectedly able to give a full answer to this apparently unpromising Query. At the time of its insertion in THE SHEAF I had never even heard of such a locality in Cheshire, or of its being, as "L. L." suggested, a place of human burial. But to-day, glancing through some of my earlier volumes of *Notes*

and *Queries*, I stumbled on the following very curious particulars which, by their insertion here, will now be rescued locally from oblivion.

Writing from Kensington, a quarter of a century ago, on *Burial in Unconsecrated Places*, a correspondent, "H. J. N.," in Vol. 10 of the above serial, p. 394, thus proceeds:—

"I had occasion lately to make some inquiry into the history of my family, when I discovered that, some two centuries ago, they were in the habit of burying their dead in their own orchard, at Dunham Massey, in Cheshire; and though the estate has passed from the family considerably more than half a century ago, it is called *Nield's Orchard* to this day.

The last of the name who possessed the estate in question was James Neild, the philanthropist, of Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, who, like Howard, devoted a great portion of his life to visiting prisons, and ameliorating the condition of the inmates. See his work on *Prisons*, published in 1812. On the death of his mother, in 1786, he sold the estate at Dunham; and the purchaser, not having much regard for the repose of the dead, removed the gravestones, dug up the orchard, and scattered the bones about. They were carefully collected by another of the name residing in the neighbourhood, who reburied them in his own garden, and reverently placed the grave-stones over them, where they now remain. I copied the inscriptions on two of them, which are as follows. On one:—

'Elizabeth Neild, buried Dec. 5, 1670. Buried here since, two Dau'rs.'

On the other:—

'Here lieth the body of John Neild, Bachelor, who departed this life the 28th day of December, 1702, in the 71st year of his age, leaving the interest of 50*l.* to the highways of Dunham Massey for ever.'

The above named James Neild was the father of John Camden Neild, who died about the year 1852, leaving an immense amount of property to Her Majesty the Queen."

A WOODMAN.

[1084] COPPER MINES IN CHESHIRE.

[Nos. 939, 972, 997, 1040.—Dec. 10, 31, Jan. 21, Feb. 18.]

We give to-day the Rules proclaimed at the BICKERTON HILL Mines in 1697, by Brandshagen, the German manager, whose knowledge of our insular idiom was apparently not on a par with his knowledge of mining. Many of these Rules are excellent in intention, and we are informed are in their spirit acted upon elsewhere even in the present day, though the BICKERTON district knows them no more:—

"Rules for all Workmen in general.

One of every Workmen, he may be of what sort he will, shall come half an hour before ye duely time, & give a certain number of strucks with a hammer on an Iron plate, erected to this purpose, to give a

Signe to ye other workmen to come att work; half an hour after he shall doe so att a second time by an other number of struicks; & shall streike no more than ye duely struicks by forfeiting 2d. He has ye same signes to give all day when ye miners shall come out & goe under ground again, & this shall doe one workmen after an other from day to day: & he who has done ye businesse this day shall remember to his follower that he has to doe ye same next day; & he that wilfully neglected these remembrance shall be punished together with him that shall doe this businesse next day (if he neglect it) for he himself must be careful about ye time & day to doe this: & he that shall give ye signs too late, has forfeited 6d., & he that shall not doe it att all shall loose all his wages, due to him, & by consent of ye mines Lords shall be turned of from ye work.

In ye morning, before ye last struick is done on ye Iron plate, every workman belonging to ye mines must appeare to ye appointed place near ye work, or he has forfeited 2d.; & he that comes half an hour after, 2d. more, & so following for every half an hour 2d., & this is understood of all times when ye signe is

When they are together they may doe a short prayer that God may give his blessing to their work, that it may raise to ye honour & glory of Him, & to ye benefit & blessinnesse of ye mines Lords & their whole familie.

After this every one must goe to his post, & diligently performe to what ye steward shall order him: in doing ye contrary he shall be duely punished, & he who shall leave ye work within ye duely hours & before ye signe is given, shall loose 6d. or for every half an hour 2d. as ye steward shall think fitt, & he that is found neglectfull shall every time have forfeited 2d.

When it is pay-day, every workmen before he gett money must show to ye steward his tools & other things which is trusted in his hands, by ye lost of all his wages; & if there should want any of such things, he must leave so much money of his wages as it is worthy in ye stewards hand, till he restores ye same.

He that hindered, one an other in his work it may be in what way it will, either by ill words, quarrelling or in other ways, must duly be punished as ye steward thinks fitt, because every one must be quiet with his work; have they any thing one against an other, they may bring it before ye steward, or cleare their things after ye work is done att an other place.

No body shall be permitted without leave of ye steward to take any oare away for a shewing piece, or under any other pretext, butt he may ye same ask from ye steward & be content with what he gives him; and if any should doe ye contrary, he is so heigh to punish as ye steward shall think sufficient.

No body shall bring any person or persons not belonging to ye mines, either under ground or at any other place where ye cares or other things are,

without permission of ye steward, & that by ye penalty of one shilling.

Every man must be in a Christian-like behaviour, and he that speekes blasphemies, or gives scandales, or does other things near ye mines with which God is offended, shall every time be punished with 4d. or more according to his crime.

When it is pay-day every one must be of a modest behaviour against ye steward, and must not murmur against him when his wages is decourted for punishment, butt must bring his complaints (if he has any against it) before ye mines Lord: if nevertheless he has gotten his wages, he must not ge from ye steward away, till ye whole payment is done, & can give witness that every one has received his due.

No workmen shall make more holy days in ye year, besides ye Sunday, then ye Lords of ye mines shall allow them, or shall be punished as one that leaves ye work for a whole day.

He that turned ye hour glass in a wrong way shall loose one shilling."

EDITOR.

It is pretty clear that in Henry the 8th's days, the country about Macclesfield had attained some celebrity as a mineral district; for I find from the "Welsh Records," removed from Chester to the Public Record Office in 1854, that on the 1st September, 6 Henry VIII.,

"Hugh Manyfold, Coroner of Macclesfield Hundred, had a Lease for life from the Crown of the tolls of the fairs held at the Feasts of All Saints and St. Barnabas in the borough of Macclesfield, and of the pannage of pigs, estrays, and 'miner' lapid', called 'cayrage,' in the forest of Macclesfield, for a rent of 19s. 8d.; 14s. 4d., being for the tolls, pannage and estrays, and 5s. 4d. for 'miner' lapid'."

It would be interesting to know if there are any traces now visible of these mining operations in Macclesfield Forest.

G. T.

[1085] BOBELL OR BOWBELL.

[No. 1021.—Feb. 11.]

BOWBELL is only a local name, current certainly as early as the 17th century, for the CURFEW BELL which has pealed forth nightly from Chester Cathedral tower for untold ages at 9 o'clock, in sonorous memory of the Conqueror. It will be in the recollection of all who know anything of written history, that a bell was ordered by King William I. to be rung each night at a certain hour in the church of Stratford-le-Bow to warn all his subjects in the then metropolis to *couvre feu*—to put out their lights. The custom then established was initiated in other cities and boroughs, Chester among the number. It was here anciently called Bowbell, but in later times "the 9 o'clock bell," under which title it still warns the gadding servant-maids to bring their courtships to an end, and to hasten home to the domain of their employers, ere the bell at its conclusion tolls slowly out the exact day of the month.

MARCH 31, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Mar. 31.—Five prisoners broke out of Chester Castle	1802
April 1.—Grand Dinner of Mr. Egerton's political friends at Chester,—327 present	1810
„ 2.—Henry William Majendie, D.D., appointed Bishop of Chester	1800
„ 3.—Lord Richard Grosvenor, M.P., married Miss Stubber, of Moynes, Queen's County	1879
„ 4.—First steam ferry-boat (the "Etna") began to ply between Tranmere and Liverpool	1817
„ 5.—First stone of Crewe Hall laid by Sir Ranulph Crewe	1615
„ 6.—Corner-stone of St. Thomas' Church, Parkgate-road, Chester, laid by H. C. Raikes, Esq., M.P.	1869

J. H.

Original Documents.**[1086] IRISH TROOPS FOR CHESTER.**

RANDLE HOLME has preserved to us in his "Historical Collections concerning Chester," forming Harleian MS. No. 2,135, the following Letter from James Butler, Earl of Ormonde and Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. It is addressed to the Mayor of Chester, and recommends a band of Soldiers, sent from Ireland, to his Worship's attention and favour.

"After my very hartly Commendac'ons, I may not be awanting soe farr, either to ye well wishes I beare towards these men now sent hence, or to ye Advantage y't His Ma'tie may reape therby, as to let them goe w'thout Recommending them (as hereby very particularly I doe) to your good fauour & Care for their fitting accomodation, in Case my Lord Byron be, vpon any employ'm't abroad, absent at ye tyme of their Arriuall there.

Your ready Affections shewed to the rest gine mee both cause to be assured hereof towards these, and of yo'r Continuance of them to ye former vpon all occasions. For w'oh I gine you very many hartly thanks, And rest

Y'r very louing friend,

ORMONDE.

His Ma'ties Castle
of Dublin this 3d
of Febr: 1643.

Maioir of Chester."

The Soldiers referred to in the second paragraph of Lord Ormonde's letter would be that gallant band of "firelocks" who, after doing effective service in the sister country, came over here in the autumn of 1643, and joined the Royalist army under Lord Byron. These "braves" it was who made themselves so sternly felt in the assaults upon HAWARDEN and BRESTON CASTLES, as well as at NANTWICH, under the dashing Captain Thomas Sandford, who fell fighting before the last-named town during the siege.

R. WILBRAHAM JONES.

The Temple, London.

[1087] POTT SHRIGLEY CHAPEL.*(Completed from last week.)*

We to-day print the remaining clauses of GEOFFREY DOWNES' very curious 15th century Will. It affords a lively picture of the position of the church in an East-Cheshire village in the days preceding the Reformation; and it gives us a description, with some minute details, of the religious Guild established at Pott Shrigley by that well-intentioned lady, Dame JANE INGOLDESTHORP. It was doubtless her charitable efforts in the church's service that roused the zeal, in a later day, of the pious GEOFFREY DOWNES to complete the work she had so satisfactorily begun.

"Also, I will that every Tuesday there be rongen the great Bell, & Dirge of bee said by both Preists between 4 and 6 of the Clock, & Mass of Requiem on the morrow after att the hour appointed, for the founders Soules, Jane & Geoffrey; and for the Soules of the Brethern and Sistern of the s'd Fraternity, and for the Wellfare of them that bee alive.

Also, I will y't the s'd Preist, every day when hee sayeth Mass of our Lady, y't hee read a Prayer att the Lavatore, which prayer is written in table, & begineth thus, 'O blessed Queen of Heaven, Emperess Coelestiall, &c.'; and also, when hee saith Mass of Jno: y't hee read another Prayer att the Lavatore written on a table, & begineth thus, "O glorious and merciful Jno:" And when hee saith Mass of any other day, y't hee say the one of the 2 Prayers att like time.

Also, I will y't as oft as it shall happen to bee but 2 or 3 alive of the s'd Feoffees that bee or shall bee floofed in the Lands, Tenements, rents, & other the p'misses of the Church Lands & Tenements and their appurtinances, I, the s'd GEOFFREY DOWNES, have made my Will y't then ye [feoffees] Soe alive shall floofee ye Heirs of the s'd Feoffees, and other as many as them think expedient to the performing of my s'd Will, unto the time it may soe happen ye s'd Lands and Tenements, with their appurtinances, to be amor at to the s'd Chappell.

And also, I will y't the feoffees shall suffer the s'd Preist to take the Rents and profits of them without any molestation to the vallue of five pounds six shillings 8d. yearly, & also of the Brotherhood 10s. yearly for Bread and wine. And also, I will y't

if the s'd Preist fall blind or Lame, or have any other impediment, whereby hee may not say Mass, that hee have forty shillings yearly durence his life.

Also, I will y't if ye s'd Rob't or his Heirs doe faile in dosing the premises as is aforesaid, that then S'r PETER LEIGH, K't, and his Heirs have the power to depute and Assigne an able Preist to the s'd Chappell, as the s'd Robert should have done, and in all things, to the performing of this my Will; and the s'd Rob't, nor his Heirs, never after have nothing ado in the s'mission of the s'd Preist, ne in any of the premisses. Also I will, if the s'd S'r PETER LEIGH or his Heirs doe faile as the s'd Roger [Robert] did, then I will y't S'r JNO: WARREN, K't, & his heirs have ye denomination of the s'd Preist, and have like power, as the s'd S'r Peter Leigh had, to perform all things as is aforesaid, & if the s'd S'r Jno: faile in doing the p'mises as the s'd S'r Peter did, then I remitt all things to the BISHOP of ye Dioces.

Also I will that if any of the two Preists tell any tales y't cause any gruge or debate between neighbours & neighbours, y't then hee y't doth & is proved withal, shall Loose his place. Also I will that every Whitunday this my Will bee read in ye s'd Chappel, between Mass & Mattens in the hearing of the people. Also I will that if either of the s'd Preists have any errant to go, y't if hee ask Licence of the s'd Rob't or his Heirs, that hee or they shall give Licence, Soe y't hee or y'e See y't the Cause of his asking Licence bee reasonable.

Also I will y't if the s'd Rob't or his Heirs desire to borrow any Booke y't is Longing to ye Chappel either for himself or any other Gentleman, either for to read or to take a Coppy thereof, y't hee have such Book as he desireth for the space of 13 weeks; Soe y't hee Leave sufficient pledge to keep them safe, and bring them again att the day assign'd, Soe y't hee have not the Mass Book.

Also, I will that neither of the Preists have the Confession of any man or woman that is known in any open sinn & continueth therein, but it it bee in the extreame point.

Also, I will that if ony man make ony fray in the s'd Chappel, or in the s'd Chappel yard, or els lye in wayte for to hurt or Distrouble ony man or woman coming to the s'd Chappel to hear the Service of God, or for ony other good intent, or els goeing fro ye s'd Chappel, that then hee or y'e, that soe doth, fall in the Censure of the Church.

Also, I will y't if theire bee ony man or woman or Child willing to bee Bro'r or Sister to the s'd fraternity in the s'd Chappel, That if hee or y'e will pay 6s. 8d. at his com'ing in, or else if hee bee not in power to pay soe much att on onys, y't if hee will pay every year 2d. or 4d. durence the time unto 6s. 8d. bee fully paid, that hee or Shee bee Bro'r or Sister, & bee pray'd for as is aforesaid. And if hee or she die afore the s'd 6s. 8d. bee fully paid, that then it renne in their Conscience, Whether they bee able to pay the residue or noe; and if y'e bee not able to pay the residue, I will that they bee pray'd for and bee Bro'r & Sister, never the latter [fless],

except men of Livelyhood that may dispend xls. yearly or above, and also except Preists, for I will that y'e pay tenn Shill's att their coming in.

Also, I will that if their bee a poor man or poor woman that bee known have not Goods whereof to pay the fores'd Sum, I will that y'e bee Bro'r or Sister as is aforesaid, as well as ony other. Also, if there bee any man or woman that will make ony Bro'r or Sister that is passed out of the World, and will pay Six and eight pence, I will that bee received into the booke.

Also, I will that if ony of the Preists Longing to the s'd Chappel know ony man or woman in the Censure afores'd, that hee nor y'e sey noe Mas'r, knowing the s'd man or woman soe being in the Censures there p'sent. And if any of the s'd Preists know any man or woman in any other parish that bee in the same Censures, that y'e send the Carate of that parish word, that hee may have knowledge in what Case y'e stounde."

The Guild, here referred to so prominently, survived till the Reformation; when with so many other like institutions, good as well as bad, it was abolished by the Commissioners of the Crown, and its revenues diverted into other channels utterly foreign to the intentions of the founders.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[1088] EGERTON AND FREEDOM.

At the present moment, when party politics are ruling everywhere, though of course not in THE SHEAF, you may be glad to record that I have in my possession a curious relic of those old Election days in Chester, when the names of "EGERTON" and "GROSVENOR" had a significance little dreamt of in those modern times.

The relic I refer to is a blue silk flag, on a mahogany staff about six feet long with a gilded top: the flag is edged with a rich silk fringe in alternate colours of red, white, and blue. Upon one side is painted upon a scroll the words "Egerton and Freedom," surmounting "three golden arrows, two saltierwise and one in pale, tied with red ribbon," one of the crests of the Oulton family. On the other side is depicted the second crest of the Egerton family,—a golden falcon rising from a white gauntlet, surmounted with the motto "The Free-men's Choice." The flag, which measures about 24 by 18 inches, is, with its staff, of a convenient size to be carried in the hand; and was often enough, in those excited processions of which we read in local history, flaunted in the faces of political foes, while there was being borne on the breeze the great party refrain of "The Glorious Sixth of May."

Those days are gone by; but the sons and grandsons of those who fought under the Egerton banner may be excused for treasuring with some pride these now innocent proofs of their ancestors' battle for political freedom!

G. D.

[1089] CLANDESTINE MATCH AT ASTBURY.

In all ages of the world, even from patriarchal times, marriages on the sly have been more or less popular. Young folks have indeed never been quite free from the dictation of gold-seeking fathers and manœuvring mothers in their efforts to settle themselves in life; and the result has been that frantic lovers have generally found some naughty way or other of checkmating the opposition of their too anxious friends. I have a curious case in point to record to-day.

In a *Chronological List of Documents*, prepared by Mr. W. B. Sanders from the National Collection of MSS., and printed, in 1865, in photozincography, under the supervision of the Master of the Rolls, is an Inquisition post mortem of the 12th Edward I. (1284), which fairly demands a corner in *THE SHEAF*. I annex a digest of it, from the Report of the Deputy Keeper issued in 1865:—

"This Inquisition, taken before Brother ROBERT of VALE ROYAL, the King's Escheator for Cheshire, relates to the death of PHILIP DE BAMVILLE, and to the property whereof he died seised; among which are enumerated certain rents received by virtue of his office of Chief Forester of the Royal Forest of WIRRAL, which office the jurors return as worth 4*l.* n excess of the costs of the custody of the profits thereof. Joan, his eldest daughter, aged 20, Ellen, his second daughter, aged 9, and Agnes, his youngest daughter, aged 8 years, are returned as his coheirs.

Annexed is a second writ and return to inquire into the truth and circumstances of an assertion made by one WILLIAM DE STANLEY, that a marriage had been contracted between him and the deceased's eldest daughter JOAN, "per verba de presentia," words spoken in the presence of witnesses; and the return to this writ gives the following curious account of the betrothal, and the circumstances under which it was made.

The jurors say that on the Sunday after the feast of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist, two years ago, which would be on the 27th of September, 1282, Philip de Bamville, with his wife and family, were at a banquet given by Master John de Stanley; on which occasion Joan, suspecting that her father intended to marry her to her stepmother's son, and not being herself at all desirous of such a match, took means to avoid it by repairing with WILLIAM STANLEY to ASTBURY church, where marriage was contracted between them by the utterance of the following mutual promise; he saying, "Joan, I plight thee my troth to take and hold thee as my lawful wife unto my life's end," and she replying, "I, Joan, take thee, William, as my lawful husband." The witnesses to this verbal contract were Adam de Hooton [Hooton] and Davie [David] de Coupeland."

I find in the Records about this same time an Alexander Baumville holding certain knights' fees from King Edward I., by the service of attending the King during war times in Wales. He was probably a near

relation of the rebellious young lady who would insist on having her own way and her own lover, as set forth in the Inquisition I have given particulars of above.

T. HUGHES.

Curries.

[1090] GREENWAY STREET, CHESTER.

This picturesque but not aristocratic street, the abode for the most part of the Fishery population of Chester, has for ages been indifferently known as GREENWAY STREET and STY LANE. I should like to learn something of the history of that locality, and the reason for the street's being called by this double name.

L. L.

Replies.

[1091] BROMBOROUGH OLD CHURCH.

[Nos. 140, 1012.—July 13, 1878; Feb. 4, 1880.]

The old Parish Church of BROMBOROUGH was pulled down in the year 1827. It is described by Ormerod as having been "small but very antient." "The greater part of the fabric," he continues, "has the appearance of being nearly oval with the Conquest, and it may be doubted whether some parts of it are not fragments of the Saxon Monastery of Bromesburgh."

It is difficult to assign any exact date to it, but the chancel bore signs of great antiquity, and was reported to have formed part of the old Abbey founded by Æthelflæa, daughter of Alfred the Great, and afterwards known as the Lady of Mercia.

The church was in form a parallelogram, small, but elegantly proportioned, and at its west end was a small wooden belfry with a single bell.

The stone was very friable, and rapidly crumbling away when, in 1827, the building was pulled down; and a new church was erected on the old site—a barn-like edifice with square windows, and no architectural pretensions.

In the year 1862 Mr. SALUSBURY MAINWARING, of Oteley, laid the foundation stone of the present church, the site of which is somewhat to the west-south-west of that of its two predecessors. It is by no means the least admirable of the many glorious conceptions of the late Sir Gilbert Scott; and, much as we may regret the entire disappearance of the Lady of Mercia's structure, the parishioners of BROMBOROUGH may be congratulated on possessing the most beautiful modern church in the Hundred of Wirral.

Bromborough.

J. E. W.

[1092] HARE HUNT IN THE STREETS OF
CHESTER.

[No. 445, 568.—January 1, March 12, 1878.]

The circumstance of another hare being hunted through the streets of the old city is very remarkable, and well worthy of being placed as a "new ear" in THE SHEAF, occurring as it does so close to the same day of the year with the one previously chronicled; the former happening on March 12th, 1823, and this one on March 8th, 1880. I copy it from the *Chester Chronicle* for March 13 :—

"COURSING AT CHESTER.—On Monday morning a hare was seen in Lower Bridge-street, Chester, making its way towards the Cross. A labouring man, living in the neighbourhood, who has a greyhound, or a dog of that class, slipped the animal at the hare. An exciting course ensued. On reaching the Cross the hare was turned down Watergate-street, at the bottom of which it swerved to the right along the City Wall, and a kill was finally effected close to the site of the old City Gaol."

Ledsham.

B. M.

[1093] BURIED HORNS.

[No. 1002.—January 18.]

It is impossible that Queen-street is the site of HORN LANE. In the notices of the SIEGE, and in the plan of the fortifications of the city, HORN LANE is shown to be "without the Barrs;" which gateway, of course, we know was situated near Dee Lane, the ancient FRENCH LANE, Boughton. Hemingway says that Horn Lane was in early times represented by *Chester Street* and *Star Street*. Afterwards, from the steam mill situated therein (once a cotton factory but now a flour mill), the new name given to it was STEAM MILL STREET.

Years ago, in the neighbourhood was a tannery; and, some nine years since, during the improving of the street with setts and flags, many cart loads of horns and bones were found at a depth of about three feet. They were very black and some of them rotten, so they must have been buried a very long time.

An interesting find was made at the same time. Almost up the centre of the street the stumps of an old hedge were found; which would suggest that, before the houses were erected, there must have been a lane or passage leading from a field or fields now occupied by the Lead Works property.

Whilst speaking of hedges, I think of the hedge, or rather the remains thereof, in the land on the west side of the City-road. When this land is built upon that hedge will be lost to view; and many who now see it probably do not know why it is there. It is the remains of the lane or path that led from the Canal-side, where was a bridge to cross the canal to the Station before the new CITY ROAD was made.

J. H.

[1094] THOMAS LUNT.

[No. 1073.—March 17]

The late Mr. THOMAS LUNT was a man of mark about 60 years ago, in the city of Chester: he was a native of Tattenhall, and by trade a builder, residing in St. John-street. He was essentially a man independent in character, and highly honourable in his business transactions, besides being a great politician, and a supporter of the Egerton cause.

The formation of BOLD SQUARE,—SELLER STREET,—the CANAL BRIDGE, and EGERTON STREET, were the result of his enterprize. He was a convert to Quakerism, whose society and worshippers at the Meeting House in Frodsham Street, besides himself and family, comprised at that day only one other, also a convert—Mr. Ben. Whittle, the druggist; a man of considerable talent, whose business is now carried on by Mr. Shephard, in Bridge Street Row, and is probably the oldest, in that line, in the city.

MR. LUNT, from comparative affluence, became much reduced in circumstances; but to instance his uncompromising honour and independence,—a sympathizing friend, in the most delicate way, tendered him pecuniary assistance. In reply, kindly thanking him, Mr. Lunt declined the offer, and in the true Quaker style, said—"I thank thee, friend—but I am not in absolute want; and when I am—having always paid my Poor Rates—I feel I should have a just claim then, and shall apply for my right."

I believe Mr. Lunt removed to Liverpool, and died in that town.

Castle-street.

M. HARRISON.

APRIL 7, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

April 7.—Sir William Brereton, Parliamentary General, died at Croydon	1661
" 9.—Henry, Lord Delamere, appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer	1689
" 10.—The Rev. John Wesley preached in the Octagon Chapel, Chester, this and the following day	1786
" 11.—Skirmish between the Royalists and Parliamentarians at Burleydam	1643
" 12.—Chester Ship-gate taken down	1831
" 12.—The See of Chester made Suffragan to York	1542
	J. H.

Original Documents.

[1095] A CHESTER ANTIQUARY IN TROUBLE.

When the old city, after its long and honourable SIEGE, was finally surrendered to the victors, the latter were not slow to track out and harass the local leaders in the struggle upon the King's side.

Among those who were in a greater or less degree compromised in this way were the first and second in the line of the four RANDLE HOLMES, Cheshire heralds and antiquaries. The elder Randle had taken a far more active part than his son in the events of the Civil War, and, as we shall see, had to 'compound' with the sum of £160. He possibly gave only a bond for the amount at the time; for by the following document we see his son, the second Randle, petitioning the State, on the decease of his father, for a remission of the penalty.

When the evidence of the several witnesses in this important enquiry comes to be printed, it will be seen that the friends who then stepped forward to support Holme in his Petition were, most of them, men illustrious in the history of the city at a very momentous period.

"RANDALL HOLMES, OF THE CITY OF CHESTER,
Alderman.

His Delinquency, that he did assist and adhere unto those forces raised against the Parliam'te where he lived, in Chester, while it was held a Garrison by the enemy against the Parliam'te. He comes in, vpon the Surrender of Chester, and petitioned here the 30th of April, 1646. it is deposed that he is soe infirme and weake of body that he is not able to traull without danger of his life.

He hath taken the Nac'onall Covenant and negative oath before the Com'tee of Chester, as by their Certificate, dated the 25th of July, 1646, doth appeare.

He compounds vpon a perticuler returned out of the Countrey, and vpon another deliuered vnder his hand, by which he doth submit to such fine, &c., and by which it doth appeare,

That he is seized in ffee to him and his heirs in possession of and in seuerall Messuages, Lands, and Ten'ts, lyinge and beinge in the City of Chester, whereout there is issueinge a certaine chiefe rent of 15s. yeerely to the Lord of the ffee of which the p'misses are holden, and was worth before theis troubles, ouer and aboue that rent.....31*li*. 2*s*. 4*d*.

That he is possessed of the remaine of a tearme for twelue yeeeres yet to come, of and in certaine other howses, Lands, and Ten'ts lyinge and beinge in the said City of Chester, which he holds by demise from Mr. Vaudry at the rent of 4 *li*. yeerely, and was worth before theis troubles, ouer and aboue the said rent..... 3 *li*. 1*s*.

That he is seized in ffee to him and his heirs in possession of and in certaine other howses, lands,

and Ten'ts lyinge and beinge in and neere the said City of Chester, for which he payes a yeerely rent of 1*s*. 4*d*., and was worth before theis troubles, ouer and aboue the said rent reserved.....20 *li*.

D. WATKINS.

5th Junij, 1646

fye 160 *li*. att sext

18. 7thbris, 1646.

Jero'm' Alexander.

According to your Order the 22th of May, 1655, I haue examined the Petition of Randle Holme, of the Citie of Chester, Gent., eldest sonne of Randle Holme, late Alderman of the same Citie, deceased, desiring your discharge of a fine of 160 *li*., imposed vpon his said Father, by the late Com'issioners for compounding, and find

That by deed indented, bearing date the 3d of November, 1607, and executed by Liverie and Seisin, Thomas Holme, of Chester, Smith, for diuers good causes and considerations, doth infeof John Cook and Thomas Allerton, and their Heirs, of all that his Messuage and Tenement in Chester aforesaid, situate in Bridge-street, and particularly bounded, To the use of the said Thomas Holme and Elizabeth, his wife, for their lives; the Remainder to Ralph Holme, eldest sonne of the said Thomas for life; the Remainder to one Ellen Snead for life; the Remainder to the first sonne and all other the sonnes of the said Ralph Holme, according to their seniorities, and the Heirs male of the bodies of such sonnes respectively; the Remainder to the daughters of the said Ralph Holme for four yeares, if 20 *li*. be not paid to them by him or them to whom the next Remainder should of right belong; the Remainder to Thomas Holme, second sonne of the said Thomas Holme, the feofor, for life, with like Remainders to his sonnes and the Heires male of their bodies; the Remainder to Randle Holme, the now Petitioner's father, youngest sonne of the said Thomas Holme, the feofor, for life, with like Remainder to his sonnes and the Heirs male of their bodies; the Remainder to the right Heirs of the said Thomas Holme, the feofor, for ever. As by the said Deed of Feofment and Declaration of uses thereunto annexed, produced under the hand and seal of the said Thomas Holme, the Father, and both indorsed to be sealed and delivered, and livery and Seisin given, in presence of diuers Witnesses (all dead as is alledged) doth more fully appeare.

That by Indenture tripartite, bearing date the first of October, 1625, made betweene the said Randle Holme, the Petitioner's father, by the name of Randle Holme, of Chester, Painter, and Elizabeth, his wife, of the first part; Edward Bathoe, Mathew Browne, Mathew Ellys, and Ralph Holme, Brother of the said Randle Holme, the father, of the second part; and the Petitioner, sonne and heir apparant of the said Randle Holme the Elder, and Katherine, his wife, of the third part; the said Randle Holme the father, in consideration of a marriage solemnized between the Petitioner and Katherine his wife, and of 220*li*. portion, doth give, grant, infeof, and con-

firm unto Edward Bathoe and those others of the second part, a cert. in Messuage or Tenement, called the new stone or brick House, situate in Castle Lane in Chester, aforesaid; and all those Messuages or Tenements, situate in Castle Lane aforesaid, in the severall Tenures of W'm Holliwell, Hugh Dodd, Margaret Pennant, Thomas Holliwell, Lettice Phillips, Robert Savage, Randle Hatton, Anne Ley, and John Johnson. And all that Garden adjoining to the said Messuage, then in the possession of Richard Evanson, And all and singular Messuages, Lands, &c., to the Premises, or any of them belonging. To have and hold unto the said Edward Bathoe and those others, and their Heirs and Assignees for ever, To the uses following, that is to say,—concerning the said Messuage or Tenement called the new stone or brick house with the house next adjoining, then in the tenure of the said W'm Holliwell, to the use of the Petitioner, and Katherine his wife, during their lives, in part of her Joynture. And concerning the rest of the Premises, to the use of the said Randle Holme the Father and Elizabeth his wife during their lives, in full of her Joynture and Dower; and after the decease of the said Randle Holme the Father and Elizabeth his wife, then, as concerning four of the said Messuages or Tenements, together with the said Garden, in the severall Tenures of the said Hugh Dodd, Margaret Pennant, Thomas Holliwell, Lettice Phillips, and Richard Evanson, to the use of the Petitioner and Katherine his wife for their lives, in full of her Joynture and Dower; And concerning the residue of the said Messuages or Tenements and Premises in the occupation of the said Robert Savage, Randall Hatton, Anne Ley, and John Johnson, to the use of the Petitioner for life; and from and after the severall and respective deceases of the said Randle Holme the Father and Elizabeth his wife, and the Petitioner and Katherine his wife, then, as concerning all the said Premises, to the use of the Heirs males of the body of the Petitioner upon the body of the said Katherine his wife; and for default thereof, to the use of the Heirs males of the body of the Petitioner; the remainder to the Heirs of the body of the Petitioner upon the body of the said Katherine his wife, and to the Heirs of the bodies of such daughters; the Remainder to the Heirs of the body of the said Petitioner, the Remainder to the said Randle Holme the Father and the Heirs of his body; the Remainder to Ralph Holme, brother of the said Randle Holme the Father, and the Heirs of his body; the Remainder to the right heirs of Randle Holme the father for ever. And the said Randle Holme the father, for the considerations aforesaid, doth give, and grant unto the said Edward Bathoe, and the other Feoffees aforesaid and their Heirs, all those the Goods and Chattells then being in the said Messuage or Tenement called the new Stone or Brick house, and mentioned in a Schedule to the said Indenture annexed, to the use of the Petitioner and Katherine his wife, during their lives; and after their deceases to be and remaine in the same Messuage or Tenement to such and the same Person and Persons, and

for such Estates and Estates as the said Messuage or Tenement by the said Indenture is limited and appointed. As by one part of the said Indenture with a Schedule of Goods annexed, produced under the hands and seales of the said Edward Bathoe, Mathewe Browne, Mathew Ellys, Ralph Holme, and the Petitioner, and of Katherine his wife, and endorsed to be sealed and delivered in presence of four Witnesses, doth more fully appeare.

And I find that the 30th of April, 1646, a Petition was presented to the then Com'ission's for compounding, in the name of Randle Holme the Elder of Chester, Alderman, and subscribed 'Randle Holme,' whereby he desired, (in regard of his age and infirmities) to be admitted to compound by Thomas Alcock, of London, Haberdasher, and to have a Letter to the Com'ittee of the said Countie, to certifie his Estate and Delinquency. And unto this Petition is annexed an Affidavit, mencioned to be sworne the 27 of Aprill aforesaid, before Mr. Riche, then one of the Masters in Chancery, by the said Thomas Alcock; who deposed on behalf of the said Randle Holme, Alderman of Chester, that the said Alderman is very willing and desirous to come unto London to compound, but is so aged and infirme, by reason of a rupture and other weaknesses, that he is no wayes able to travail unto London, and hath given this Deponent Power and Authority to enter the name with the Subcom'ittee to that purpose.

This Petition being referred accordingly, the said Subcom'ittee reported that the said Randle Holme had taken the Nationall Covenant and Negative Oath, as by the Certificate of the Com'ittee of Chester, bearing date the 25th of July 1646, appeares. That he compounded upon a Particuler out of the Countrey, and another delivered in under his hands, Whereby it appeares he is seised of severall Messuages, Lands, and Tenements in Chester of the cleare yearly value of 20 li. Vpon which Report his Fine was set the 25 of January, 1646, the sume of 160 li, which Fine was soe confirmed the first of October 1649.

And I find with his Papers a Certificate dated the 25th of July, 1646, subscribed 'William Massey [really signed Massey], Robert Gregg, Richard Leicester, Peter Leigh,' who thereby certifie all whome it may concerne that Randle Holme, Alderman of Chester, had taken the Nationall and Negative Oath, and compounded for his personall Estate. And I find also with his Papers three severall Particulars, two signed 'Thomas Alcock' and one 'Randle Holme,' all differing. One of these, signed 'Thomas Alcock,' mencioneth Lands and Tenements of the yearly value of 20 li onely. The other signed by him mencioneth Messuages or Tenements, but no Lands, and in other points agreeth with the said Report. That particularly signed 'Randall Holme' differeth little from the Report in the values, but mencioneth no Lands, onely Houses, Cellars, and Shoppes; but saith not what Estates he had therein, save onely, that he held certain of them by Lease, but saith not for what Terme."

The remaining portions of this Document shall be given in a week or two. Meanwhile, it will be seen, on reference to the HOLME Pedigree in Ormerod's *History of Cheshire*, 1st ed., vol. ii., p. 253, that what I already print qualifies some of the statements in that interesting family tree.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1096] THE CHESTER BOOK CLUB, 1824.

THE CHESTER BOOK CLUB consisted of twelve members, who, after circulating the books, sold them by auction, at an evening party, at one of their houses in turn, DR. NORRIS usually being the Auctioneer: it was he also who drew up the following playful catalogue, descriptive of the members of the Club. He had apparently just issued a List of the Books then in circulation, and the one now printed he calls a

"SUPPLEMENTARY CATALOGUE, 1824.

Lot 1.

A brief sketch of Mr. Owen's *New Settlement*, with notes, and an abridged extract of the late Marriage Act, neatly bound together in superior law binding.....[Mrs. Coupland.]

Lot 2.

Tales of the Castle, the best edition, embellished with a fine view of Hawarden, Flintshire; a single volume, neatly bound[Mrs. Glynne.]

Lot 3.

Contributions to Natural History, containing some very fine specimens of the Cotton plant, and an interesting sketch illustrative of the mineralogy of the banks of the river Humber; 2 vols., bound in Russia[Mrs. Humberston.]

Lot 4.

Johnson's *Rasselas*.—A valuable edition, by mistake in common law binding. Letter'd.....

[George Johnson, Esq.]

Lot 5.

The Art of Social Life, imperial quarto, splendidly bound in Russia, gilt extra; a fine copy, in the highest preservation, and worthy a place in the best collection[Mrs. Mainwaring.]

Lot 6.

The Guide to Domestic Happiness, 2 vols., beautifully bound in purple Morocco. Scarce; only 18 copies extant, exclusive of this[Mrs. Massie.]

Lot 7.

Flora Britannica, 2 vols., 8vo, richly bound in green Morocco, gilt extra; the 2nd vol. embellished with a highly finished drawing of that beautiful plant *Magnolia-Hibernica*, faithfully copied from nature[Mrs. Nicholls.]

Lot 8.

The Sisters, a popular tale of Lepanto, but translated from the Welsh; 2 vols., crown 8vo., handsomely bound in red, gilt, and letter'd

[Mrs. Panton.]

Lot 9.

Cælebs in Search of a Wife, a new edition, corrected after the manner of Bowdler's Shakespeare, the objectionable passages omitted, the good only retained. 1 vol., curiously printed in black letter...

[Rev. Geo. Pearson.]

Lot 10.

The Comforts of Human Life, a fine folio edition, particularly well bound, and in excellent preservation[Mrs. Potts.]

Lot 11.

Illustrations of Country History, 2 vols., embellished with 2 two fine portraits; handsomely bound in blue Morocco. Very choice copies.....

[The Misses Townshend.]

Lot 12.

The Balance of Comfort, a new edition, interspersed with original poetry; a handsome copy in high preservation, embellished with an expressive title page[Miss Venables.]

The names given within brackets are supplied from a list left in MS. by Dr. Norris on the copy from which I transcribe this for THE SHEAF.

Newton.

H.

[1097]

THINGS I REMEMBER.

No. 12.

A CHESHIRE COUNTY ELECTION.

Perhaps some of the readers of "THE SHEAF" may like to know something about the way in which County Elections were conducted about 60 years ago in CHESTER. I well remember one of these taking place about that time in the Shire Hall, as it was called, at Chester Castle. The High Sheriff of the county, the returning officer, stood in the place usually occupied by the judge; on his right stood the late Mr. WILBRAHAM EGERTON, of Tatton Park, and on his left Mr. EDWARD DAVIES DAVENPORT, of Capesthorne, the late Members for the whole County. After the legal and customary formalities had been gone through, and a crowded audience had settled down into something like order; the two candidates were severally proposed and seconded by their friends, in brief complimentary terms, with scarce a word in reference to the politics of the day. For a moment there was a buzz of expectation, while the High Sheriff asked if anyone else had a proposition to make.

A very curious incident then occurred, that is indelibly fixed on my memory. An elderly gentleman, Mr. W. Folliott, well known in the city for his eccentricity, standing near me, made sundry demonstrations of impatience, and, looking round him, asked would no one propose another candidate? Finding no answer to his query, he said aloud, drawing himself up in stately form, "If no one will propose a member, I will propose myself!" Of course there was a great laugh at the proposal, which enlivened an otherwise rather dull programme.

After this little interlude, the customary declaration was made that the candidates were duly elected; and they were invested with swords as Knights of the Shire, and received the congratulations of their friends. After very short speeches by way of thanks for the honour again conferred upon them, the last act of the drama was, I remember, the formation of a cavalcade outside the Hall, which proceeded across the Castle Yard, and down Castle-street, to one of the hotels; and thus ended a simple, unexciting, and inexpensive performance.

Newton.

T. D.-C.

Queries.

[1098] HENRY HARDWARE.

On the wall, just outside the communion rails, in TARVIN Church, is an old Brass Tablet, bearing, with the coat of arms of the City of Chester, the following inscription, of which I have much pleasure in sending you a heel-ball rubbing:—

"henry . hardware . here . interred . is .
that . alderman . was . of . late .
in . the . Citie . of . Chester, where . he . was
a . moste . graue . Maistrate . ~ .
within . that . Citie . the . sword .
before . him . tyme . had . borne .
he . ruled . with . prudence . pollicie .
as . Citizens . graue . can . wel . enform .
AND SO DECEASED THE 5 OF MARCHE,
1584."

The good Alderman's arms appear on the plate, underneath those of the City; but these, with any particulars of his life, and the reason for his burial at TARVIN, probably some other correspondent will lay before the readers of THE SHEAF.

M. A. T.

[1099] PLAGUE STONES IN CHESHIRE.

In the 16th and 17th centuries, and even earlier still, when the ravages of the PLAGUE devastated the country once or twice sometimes in a generation, trading between the agricultural classes and the districts infected almost entirely ceased. Butter, cheese, and other like necessities of life were only obtainable with great difficulty; for the country people would not bring their produce into the usual market, or indeed come themselves within speaking distance of those supposed to be at all tainted with the dread disorder.

Accordingly, a sort of suburban open market had to be improvised. A stone was set up at an appointed place in the outskirts, with cavities made therein, one to receive the articles sold, and the other in which to place the money laid down as payment. Through the last-named cavity running water was sometimes introduced, in order to purify the coins deposited from all risk of infection.

I presume these "Plague Stones," as they are called by antiquaries, are not unknown in your Cheshire annals; and I should be glad to learn where any such are now, or have been ever known to be, in existence in the neighbourhood.

CAMBRO-BRITON.

[1100] CAPT. THOS. MONKE, A ROYALIST PRISONER.

In the *Calendar of State Papers*, Domestic Series, 1652-3, published under the direction of the Master of the Rolls, I find the following entries:—

"1653. Council of State.

Feb. 17. Order on petition of Capt. Thos. Monke, of Newport, Shropshire, now prisoner at Chester, that he be bailed on condition to act nothing prejudicial to the State.

March 18. Order on petition of Thos. Munck, prisoner at Chester, that he be enlarged on security (which is to be taken by the Mayor of Chester) in 200*l* for himself, and 100*l* apiece his sureties, to act nothing prejudicial to the commonwealth."

What is known of this gentleman beyond what is indicated in the above extracts? What was his relationship, if any at all, to the great General bearing a similar surname?

G. T.

Replies.

[1101] JOHN MUSGROVE.

[No. 991.—Jan. 21.]

That erratic child of genius, and the most wonderfully minute draughtsman I ever knew, was a native of Chester, and was born in one of the small cottages at the foot of St. Mary's Hill. His father, a pensioner, was serving in the Invalids corps stationed at Chester, when the following entry was recorded in the parish register of St. Peter's at the High Cross:—

"John Muscrop, and Grace Bull, spinster, were married by banns, April 12, 1733."

Turning to the parish register of St. Mary's upon the Hill, I find, nearly two years afterwards, the following record:—

"John, son of John and Grace Muscrop, baptised March 13, 1735."

This was our afterwards noted local artist in pen-and-ink, JOHN MUSGROVE, the man whose industrious and faithful pencil has rescued so many of the picturesque buildings in Chester and the neighbourhood from undeserved oblivion. In his early manhood he relinquished his original name MUSCROP, by which he was described on the roll of the Blue Coat Hospital in this city; in which school he obtained pretty nearly all the learning he ever possessed, save what he picked up in his troublous battle with the world.

T. HUGHES.

APRIL 14, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

April 15.—St. Daniel's Church, Worthenbury, consecrated by Bishop Peplow, on Palm Sunday	1739
„ 16.—William Ellis, and William Loom executed together at Gallows Hill, Boughton	1779
„ 17.—Lord Delamere created Earl of Warrington	1690
„ 18.—Lowndes, the Mail Robber, convicted at Chester, and hung on April 21 ...	1791
„ 19.—Francis Gastrell, author of the <i>Notitia Cestriensis</i> , consecrated Bishop of Chester	1714
„ 20.—The Plague raged in Chester for ten months, from June 22, 1648, to this day	1649

J. H.

Original Documents.**[1102] MILTON, AND HIS CHESHIRE WIFE.**

It was for a long series of years a moot point among historians, as to which of the Cheshire families of MYNSHULL was entitled to the honour of giving a third wife to England's venerated poet, MILTON. In a rash moment, PENNANT lent the weight of his high authority to the statement that ELIZABETH MILTON was a daughter of Sir Edward Mynshull, of Stoke, near Nantwich. Thereupon, local and other scribes, drawing on their warm imagination, conjured up stories of the visits paid by the poet, during his courting period, to the old house at Stoke; and the good knight, Sir Edward, became quite a man of literary interest, by reason of the distinction his supposed daughter's marriage had conferred upon him. Thirty years ago, so firm a root had this guess of PENNANT's taken, that there were probably not three persons living who had the smallest doubt upon the point.

But, fortunately for historic truth, there were certain documents in existence able to prove the contrary of this claim; and, more fortunate still, they fell into the hands of MR. JOHN FITCHETT MARSH, the then Town Clerk of Warrington, a well-known Shakspearian scholar and collector. These documents disclosed the fact beyond all doubt that Elizabeth Mynshull (afterwards Milton) was a daughter, not of Sir Edward of Stoke Manor, but of a far more humble though quite as respectable Cheshire yeoman, RANDLE MYNSHULL, of WISTASTON, also, like Stoke, in the neighbourhood of Nantwich.

This discovery, so fixed was the belief in the Stoke descent, was almost scouted at first by most students and admirers of Milton. A long and warm discussion occupied the pages of *Notes and Queries*, in the years 1853-55; and in that discussion I myself, with Mr. Fitchett Marsh and others, had the privilege to take part. The result was that the defenders of the Stoke fallacy were completely driven from the field, and it was established beyond all doubt that WISTASTON was the birthplace of the widow of JOHN MILTON.

It was in that controversy most clearly proved that Elizabeth Milton was a daughter of Randle Mynshull of Wistaston; whose youngest brother, RICHARD, was an ironmonger at Chester, becoming Sheriff there in 1647, and Mayor of the city in 1657. A second brother, THOMAS, migrated to Manchester, and had several children, two of the sons ultimately settling in London. In Dugdale's *Visitation of Lancashire* (Chetham Society, vol. lxxxv., p. 199) there is a pedigree of the Manchester Mynshulls, which proves that the three brothers, Randle, Thomas, and Richard, were sons of Richard Mynshull of Wistaston, co. Chester (who died there in 1657), by Ellen his wife, daughter of Nicholas Gouldsmyth, of Bosworth, co. Leicester, and of Willaston, near Nantwich. Two, if not three, intermarriages between the Mynshulls and the Gouldsmyths, have so welded the two as practically to make them one family.

I will now submit a couple of Wills, transcribed from the originals in the Chester Court of Probate; and out of these, and two others to be given next week, shall be able to show the true descent, through the Gouldsmyths and Mynshulls, of the Cheshire wife of the immortal MILTON.

"In the name of god amen, the vij'th day of Janvarye, In the xvij'th yeare of the raygne of ou'r soveraygne ladye Elizabeth, by the grace of god queene off englande, france, & Irelande, Defenders of the fayth, &c. I, Rondle goldesmythe, of Wyllaston, w'thin the countye of chester, husbandedman, sycke In bodye, but in p'fecte remembrance, doe make my laste wyll and testamente In maner & forme folowinge. fyrste I bequethe my soule to allmyghtye god, my creator & redeemer, trustyng In hym that throughe the merytes of christes passion, & faithe In hym, I shalbe one of them that shalbe saved; and my bodye to be buried In the churche yarde of the namptewiche, as neare the place whear my mother Dothe lye as may be. It', I geue to the churche wardens of Wistaston churche, towarde the reperacions of the same churche, ijs.

It' I geue and bequethe to my yongeste son, Richarde goldesmythe, xli., In money, to be taken out of my goods, over & besydes his childes p'te of my goodes. It' I do geue and bequethe to nycolas goldesmythe and geffry goldesmyth, my sons, ether of them fortye shillings a peyse, over & besydes their childes p'te of [my] goods. It' I Doe geue and bequethe to my Doughter margaret bressye,

xiijs. iiij^d., In full recompence of all hir childes p'te of my goodes. And I geue & bequethe to ales coope, my Doughter, other xiijs. iiij^d., In full recompence of all her childes p'te of my goodes.

It' I wyll & bequethe that Rondle goldeamythe, my sonne, shall haue the hangyns In my house & p'l^{or}, withe my table In my house & all the shiffes In the same; also I Doe geue & bequethe vnto my sayd son Rondle all tymber & Iron ware In & abowte my house, so that my wyfe may haue the occupac'on of all the p'mysses Durynge hir lyfe; and I also geue and bequethe to my son Rondle goldeamythe one of my kyne; also I wyll & bequethe that after my Deesease, my Dettes beinge payde & my funeralls Discharged, that all the reste of my goodes be equallye Devyded, that ys to say, betwixte Margery goldeamythe, nowe my wyfe, nycolas, greffrey, & Richarde, my sonnes.

I Doe also constytute, name, & apoynte my trewe and lawfull executors, to sey this my laste will & testament p'formed, margery goldeamythe, my wyfe, Richarde hassall, of the namptewiche, & thomas bressey, my son In lawe. I doe make my son In lawe, Ric' coope, over seyer of this my laste wyll, &c.

Dettes ounginge to me Rondle goldeamythe (*inter alia*)

Imp'm' Wylyyam asten xviij^{li}.

It' of John bret, goldamythe vii.

It' of Edmonde church the elder.....xs.

It' of Rycharde Wilkes, for a coult sould to

Mr. Raphesmede, to be paid out of his fyne..xxvs.

It' of Thomas Wade, of Willaston.....xls.

M'd', that thomas lonscastle Dothe oughe vnto my londelorde M'aster Rayfe sneyde, esquier, ffor p'sell of his fyne for the takyng of his house.....vj^{li}.

Sealed & D'd' by the abovesayd Rondle goldeamythe, In the p'sence of the p'sons vnder named,

Rycharde hassall Thomas brassye

John smythe nycholas goldeamythe

Jeffre goldamythe Rycharde gooldesmyth

Rondle goldeamythe the younger

Margaret bressey, wyfe to thomas bressey

Dettes y't I the testatour Do owe.....xls."

By mutual agreement at the proving of the Will, "ultimo february, 1576, cora' ve'li viro m'g'ro Robte leche, legu' doctore &c., by the Saieinge & affirmac'on of Will'm Allen, clerke, p'son of Wistaston, & Nicholas Goldsmyth, sonne to the Testator, his weif sholde haue the lease he had taken in morefeld duringe her leif." The Inventory amounted to £61.

Thus far as to the GOULDSMYTHS; we will now turn to the will of RONDULL MINSHULL of Wistaston, proved at Chester, 23 May, 1595:—

"Emanuel.

In the name of god, Amen. The xxjth day of December, Anno domini, 1590, & in the xxi^jth years of the raygne of our most gracious soveraygne Ladie

Elizabeth, by the grace of god of Englande, ffraunce, & Ireland, Queene, defendris of the ffaythe, &c. I, Rondull Minshull, of Wistaston, in the Countie of Chester, beinge in good & perfecte healthe & memory (thanks be vnto god), And considoringe y't nothinge is more certen to man than death, nor enythinge more vncertayne than the tyme therof, Doe make & ordeyne this my last will and Testament in manner & forme followinge, That is to say, first & aboue all things, I comytt my soule to almightie god, Trustinge assuredlie y't by the merite & bloud-sheddinge of Jeans Christ and ffayth in him, I shalbe one of those y't shalbe saved. And my bodie to be buried in ye p'ishe church of Wistaston in the middle yle there.

It'm I geue & bequeithe towards the rep'acions of ye seid church iijs. iiij^d. And whereas I haue taken my house by Lease in Reversion xxj years after my deesease, & after my sonne Thomas his deesease, I geue & bequeithe the third part of my house & my ground to Margret my wife, yaldinge & payinge the third part of my rent and all other duties & customes belonginge to the same; & shes shall pay her rent, w'th all duties and customes thereto belonginge, vnto them y't shall enioy the other two parts. It'm I geue & bequeithe ye other two parts of my house & my ground, and my wifes part after her, to Richard Minshull, my sonne Thomas his eldest sonne, and his assignes; soe alwayes y't he doe not Assigne it from his yonger bretherne, except he haue children of his owen bodie lawfullie begotten, and yet neverthelesse, my will & mynd ys y't if my said sonne Thomas doe convey or p'mytt the Lands w'oh he bought of his vncle Roger Rawlinson, lyinge in Buckinghamshire, to descende or come to the said Richard his eldest sonne and to his heires, that then Rondull Minshull, my sonne Thomas his seconde sonne, shall haue my said house and my ground to him and his assignes. Soe y't he doe not assigne [&c. as above]; and if ye said Rondull ye yonger happen to dye w'thout eny issue of his bodie lawfullie begotten, then I will y't Thomas Minshull, my sonne Thomas his third sonne, shall haue my said house and my ground [except as above, and] then I geue and bequeithe to William Minshull, my sonne Thomas his fourth sonne [&c. as above, and] then I geue it to ye next of my kin, if eny of the years be behinde and vnexpired.

It'm I geue to my sonne Thomas all my harnesse & all my edgeloumes, and all other manner of yerne ware belonginge to husbandrie; ye rest of my goodes vnbequeithed, my dettes and fyne payd, I geve the one halfe to Margret my wife, and ye other halfe to Thomas Minshull and William Minshull, my sonne Thomas his two youngest sonnes, to their praferment.

And of this my last will & Testament I doe make & ordeyne the said Thomas Minshull my sonne, and Rondull Meakin my sonne in Lawe, my true and Lawfull executors, And doe desire yewin minshull of Namptw'ch, and Richard Crewe of Wolfull, to be overseers y't the same be p'formed accordynglie. In

Witnesses hereof, I have herunto put my seals.
These beinge Witnesses, viz.:

Rondull Meakin.	[Wafer seal,—a bird
Thomas Sutton.	rising, and signed
with others.	with X

The subject shall be resumed next week, and the evidence so arranged as to make the whole story easily intelligible to my readers. T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1103] PRESIDENT BRADSHAW.

The following letter of this Cheshire celebrity appeared in the *Illustrated London News* for October 18, 1856. It was sent for publication by Mr. V. Kyffin Lenthall of Bayons Manor, Lincolnshire, a probable descendant of the Speaker Lenthall to whom Bradshaw's letter is addressed, and who stated his belief it had not been previously published:—

"Honorable Sir,

I have, by Mr. Love, a member of the happy P^liamment, receyved the Howse's pleasure touching myself, in relation to ye Great Seale; wherein, as I desire wth all humble thankfulness to acknowledge ye respect and favour done me in honouring me with such a trust; so I should reckon it a great happiness if I were able immediately to answer ye call, and personallie attend ye service, w^{ch} at present I am not, labouring under an aguish dystemper of about 8 months' continuance; for removing whereof (after much Physicke in vaine) according to advyce on all hands, I have betaken myself to the fresh ayre, and hope (though my fitts have not yet left me) to receive benefit and advantage thereby. And for this I humbly begge ye Parliam^ts leave and permission, if upon this just occasion they shall not in their wysdome think fit otherwise to dyspence wth me. In ye meane time it hath been, and is, noe small addition to my other afflictions that, for want of health, it hath not bene in my power according to my Heart's earnest desire to be serviceable in my poor measure to the publiq. But by ye helpe of God, when through his Goodnes my strength shall be restored (of w^{ch} I despayre not), I shall be most free and willing to serve ye Parliament and Comonwealth in anie capacitie, and that through dyvine assistance with all diligence, constancy and faithfulness, and to ye utmost of my power.

Sir, I judged it my dutie to give this account of myself to ye Howse, and humbly deayre by your hand it may be tendered to them; for whom I daylie pray that God would blesse all their counsels and consultations, and succede all their unwearied endevors for ye happie setting and establishment of this latellie languyshing and now revived Comonwealth upon sure and lasting foundations.

Sir, I rest and am

Yo^r humble servant,

JO. BRADSHAW.

.....ll in Wyltshire
.....in 1659
.....scentis Republica primo.
(Read June 9, 1659.)

For the Right Hon^{ble} William Lenthall, Speaker of ye Parliament of the Comonwealth of England. These."

So few of President Bradshaw's letters have been preserved that the foregoing is of especial interest. Written in reply to a request from the House of Commons that he would accept the Great Seal, he was obliged to decline the honour on account of the "aguish dystemper" to which he alludes, and from which he appears to have suffered severely. It was evident he was sanguine of recovery, aided by the "fresh ayre" of Wiltshire; but this was not to be, and he died of the disease (quartan ague) on Nov. 22 of the same year (1659).

The letter is undated, but as it was read to the House of Commons on June 9, 1659, it was probably written in either May or June. The closing remarks as to the "latellie languyshing and now revived Commonwealth," probably refers to the troublous period which led to Richard Cromwell resigning the Protectorate in May of that year, and the hope of better things to follow. A year after the date of Bradshaw's letter, the "sure and lasting foundations" of the Commonwealth were destroyed, and the Monarchy reinstated upon its ruins.

The tone of the epistle is much more placid than would have been expected from the hard and stern Puritan. That he retained his character to the last was evident from the fact that, weak and suffering as he was, he attended the Council of State a few days only before his death, to remonstrate against the conduct of the Army, who had seized the Speaker Lenthall, and thereby suspended the proceedings of the House of Commons.

Brookwood, Surrey. T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Queries.

[1104] LONGLEY HILL, ASHTON HAYES.

Has anyone noticed a peculiar excavation on the side of this hill? To an untutored eye, it would seem to bear the marks of considerable antiquity. Can it have formed part of one of those hill fortresses, such as are often noticed, very strongly marked on the summits of certain mountains of Denbighshire and Flintshire?

M. O. Y.

[1105] SIR FRANCIS GAMULL.

I understand the patent of baronetcy, said to have been conferred upon this gallant soldier and citizen, is not now to be found, and that the fact of the creation is more than doubted by some antiquaries. What is the true state of things with regard to this title? L. L.

[1106] WIGS AND PIGTAILS.

The Barber's profession (if I may dignify it by that title) has sadly fallen from the high estate it held even so late as a century ago. But, three centuries since, Chester Barbers were prominent citizens, ranking with, and exercising most of the functions of, surgeons and physicians. They dressed wounds, drew teeth, bled their patients in more ways than one, made up ointments and pills calculated either to kill or cure in all sorts of disorders, and were, all round, about as busy a lot of artists as were to be found anywhere within our ancient walls.

Excellent artificers in the making of wigs and perukes, they earned full many an honest penny in the plaiting and adornment of pigtails, another of the vanities affected by our grandsires. Most of us remember when wigs were common; many of us can hark back to the days when we looked with wonder on, and scarce dared venture to handle, the pigtails then still worn by a few of our older citizens. Judges of the land and barristers still wear wigs, and I hope always will: bishops have, I believe, entirely discontinued their use, though I'm not so sure than even that change was for the better.

All this however is a rather long introduction to the two very short questions I would now venture to put, viz:—When did the use of the episcopal wig cease in Chester? and who was the last wearer there of the picturesque pigtail? T. HUGHES.

Replies.

[1107] OLD OAK COFFIN AT ST. JOHN'S, CHESTER.

[Nos. 231, 366.—Aug. 28, Nov. 18, 1878]

I knew the Rev. Mr. Richardson, a former Vicar of St. John's, somewhat intimately half a century ago. Copying from a note made at the time in an old pocket book now before me, I find that the Vicar then informed me that the Oak Coffin standing so grotesquely in one of the chancel walls of St. John's Ruins, was discovered in 1813, during some reparations then going on in the chancel, built up in a portion of the church wall which was being pulled down, a few yards further to the north than the site it at present occupies. It would probably, from its original position, have been the coffin of some prominent citizen, perhaps the founder of one of the several eastern chapels at one time grouped round the east end of St. John's Cathedral. H. S. A.

[1108] "THE ANCIENT BRITISH CHURCH."

[No. 608.—April 9, 1879.]

I knew the late ARCHDEACON EVANS personally and well during his six years' residence in Cheshire. His

connection with our county was almost solely a clerical one, though his mother, a Miss Wilson, is said to have been a native of Heild, in the parish of Great Budworth. His father, John Evans, M.D., was born at Llwynygroes, in Llanyrnnech parish, Montgomeryshire; being son of Mr. John Jones, of the same place, who published in 1795 what *Pennant* calls "a beautiful Map of North Wales," as well as a large engraving of the celebrated waterfall, Pistyll Rhaiadr,—a favourite print with collectors of Welsh views.

ROBERT WILSON EVANS was born at his grandfather's estate of Llwynygroes, on August 30, 1789, and was one of nine children; of whom three brothers including himself became clergymen, one a captain in the navy, and the other a subaltern in the army. From Mr. JOHN FEWTELL'S *History* of the parish, now in course of publication, I append some of the following particulars:—

"He was educated at Shrewsbury School, afterwards at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated as seventh wrangler, and second Chancellor's Medalist, in 1811. He was elected Fellow and Tutor of his college, and in 1836 was presented by the Bishop of Lichfield to TARVIN Vicarage, Cheshire, where he enjoyed the friendship of Archbishop Sumner, then his diocesan at Chester. Here he published his well-known *Tales of the Ancient British Church*, and occasionally acted as Examining Chaplain to the Bishop. He resigned Tarvin in 1842, on being presented by his College to the Vicarage of Heversham, Westmoreland, and was not long afterwards appointed Archdeacon of Westmoreland. Possessing great ability, he laboured hard, both as tutor and clergyman; and as Archdeacon he found a wide field open, in which he diligently strove to perform his duty faithfully. Among his many published works are:—*The Rectory of Valehead*, a well-written book, descriptive of a country rectory, the scene of which is said to have been at Llanyblodwel, next parish to Llanyrnnech; *The Church of God*; *Scripture Biography*; *Biography of the Early Church*; *The Bishopric of Souls*; *The Ministry of the Body*; *Parochial Sermons*; *Parochial Sketches*, in verse; *England under God*; divers reviews, pamphlets, &c.

ARCHDEACON EVANS died on the 10th of March 1866; and his brother, the Rev. WILLIAM EDWARD EVANS, of Clare College, Cambridge, Precentor and Canon of Hereford, died in 1869. In the present church of Llanyrnnech are the three following Memorials accompanying stained glass windows put up by the family:—

'In memory of their beloved father, JOHN EVANS, of Llwynygroes; also of their beloved mother, Jane, daughter of John Wilson, of the Heild, Cheshire; also of their beloved brothers and sisters, John, Thomas, Richard Henry, Jane Amelia, Beatrice Harriett. Erected by their survivors, Robert Wilson, Georgina Elizabeth Frances Loui Anno Domini MDCCLXII.'

'To the glory of God. This window is erected in memory of WILLIAM EDWARD EVANS, M.A., Canon of Hereford Cathedral, and Vicar of Madley in that County, formerly Curate of this parish, by his only surviving sister, Fanny Louisa Evans. He was born June 8th, 1801, and died November 22nd, 1869.'

'To the glory of God. This window is erected in memory of ROBERT WILSON EVANS, B.D., late of Llwynygroes in this Parish, Archdeacon of Westmoreland, Vicar of Heversham in that County, by his only surviving Sister, Fanny Louisa Evans. He was born August 30th, 1789, died March 10th, 1866.'

G. T.

APRIL 21, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- April 21.—Reginald Heber, afterwards Bishop of Calcutta, born at Malpas Rectory.... 1783
 „ 23.—Arrival of a great number of Luddites at Chester Castle, escorted by the Ashton Hayes Troop of Cavalry..... 1812
 „ 24.—Dr. Robert Oldfield's bequest to St. Michael's parish, Chester, dated 1695
 „ 25.—The Royal Cheshire Militia, on their return from active service at Liverpool, disbanded 1802
 „ 26.—Dispute between the City of Chester and the Vice-Chamberlain of the county, finally settled 1573
 J. H.

Original Documents.

[1109] PRINCE RUPERT AT LIVERPOOL.

The BREBETON CORRESPONDENCE supplies us to-day (thanks to Dr. KENDRICK, of Warrington) with a short but interesting Letter from George, Lord Digby, a distinguished general in the Civil War. He congratulates PRINCE RUPERT on his victorious descent upon Liverpool, and on the facilities it gave the Royalists in their communications with Ireland.

"May it please your highnesse,

This bearer, S'r William Nele, goes soe well instructed of our Condition heere that it will bee very unnecessarye to trouble your highnesse at this time with Longe Discourses. the chiefe subject of this therfore is to congratulate unto your highnesse, your happye & most important succeesse in the takinge of Leverpoole; w'ch hath made us a bridge

with Ireland, of w'ch I hope your highnesse shall finde some speedye effects; for immediatlye upon S'r William Neles arrivall, I dispatche an Exprese to the Irish agents, to procure of them 200 Barrells of Powder for your highnesse, wherin I little doubt of speedye succeesse, havinge directed Chedles Frigatt to performe that service. I suppose your highnesse will understand from other hands the impossibilitye of supplyinge you as yett any other way, but noe endeavours shall be omitted.

I received these inclosed from S'r John Mennes and Arthur Trever, and his Ma'tie hath sent sharpe letters about the subject of them, and the settlinge of S'r John Mennes accordinge to your highnesse pleasure: however, I thinke it would be necessary that your highnesse, should doe somewhat more in it your selfe.

S'r, I have noe more to add but that I am, with all faithfullnesse,

Your highnesse most affectionate
humble servant,

GEORGE DIGBY.

Bendlye, this 14 June,
1644."

Sir WILLIAM NEALE is the officer who was, six months previously, in command of HAWARDEN CASTLE, and of whom, in connection with Prince Rupert, some further particulars of interest have been printed at No. 1030 of THE SHEAF.

"Chedle's Frigatt" seems to have been a sort of 17th century *Alabama*, addicted to running blockades, and with comparative safety from capture.

EDITOR.

[1110] A CHESTER ANTIQUARY IN TROUBLE.

(Continued from No. 1095.)

Mr. PETER BREBETON, to whom, on behalf of the Commissioners for Sequestration, the Petition of RANDLE HOLME the younger had been referred, proceeds with his Report as follows:—

"And I find that John Whitworth, John Whittle, and Samuell Buck, Com'ittee for Sequestrations in the Cittie of Chester, by their Letter of the 25th of November, 1648, to the then Com'issioners for compounding, presented the Cases of the said RANDALL HOLME, and of WILLIAM SPARES, two ancient men, Aldermen and Justices of the Peace of the said Citie of CHESTER, who were left in their Places by the Houses of Parliament in their Ordinance for settling the Liberties of the said Citie, when others were put out; and had ever since acted and bin serviceable to the Parliament, in promoting their Com'ands, as farr as lay in them, and staid in the Citie at the tyme of the Visitation, and did the Citie good service. That these men amongst others staid in the Citie whilst it was garrisoned by the King (it being the Place of their Habitation almost all their life), took some Oaths with the Kings Partie, and contributed assistance to them, being under their Power. That since the Citie was

reduced, they compounded for their Personal Estates, with the Com'ttee appointed for raising money for the Souldiers, and paid it, and took the Covenant and Negative Oath, And yet they the said Com'ttee had staid the Rents of their Lande, untill they have directions from them, the Com'ttee for compounding, what to do. That they were both aged, and not able to travell, and verie usefull to the Government of that poore Citie; and should they be put to compound for their Rents they would be thereby disabled to serve the Citie in their Places, and the Com'ttee destitute to find men to supply their roomes.

And I find, that the said Alderman HOLME, being sum'oned in 1651, to pay in his said fine, petitioned here, setting forth, that being about 70 yeares of age, and having lived in Chester all his tyme, was constrained to continue his habitation there when the same was a Garrison; yet never acted, ner was ayding to the King's Party during the Troubles, but still manifested his good affection to the Parliament: In so much, that at the reducing of the said Citie, He was known by all in authoritie there, to stand so well affected to the Parliament, that He was, by an Ordinance of Parliament, continued in Office in the said Citie, and put in the Com'ission of Peace; and after, by Act of Parliament, made a Com'issioner for leyng severall Assessments for the Army. That his Nephew, the said THOMAS ALCOCK, immediately after the reducing the said Citie, hearing he had continued in the said Garrison, and fearing He might have done some Act w'ch might bring him within compass of Sequestration, and understanding there was then some Ordinance for all Delinquents to Petition and perfect their Compositions by such a tyme, or incurre a greater Penalty; the said Thomas Alcock, without any direction from him the said Randall Holme the elder, as appeares by his Affidavit to that Petition annexed, did present a Petition in the name of the said Randall Holme to compound; whereupon a Fine was set, which he was never privy unto; And prayed the same might be discharged, or that his Demeanor and good Affection to the Parliament might be referred to Examination, and in the meane tyme all Proceedings touching the said Fine to stay.

And the same day, the said THOMAS ALCOCK sworne, here deposeth that about six yeares since, being about the tyme of reducing of CHESTER, this Deponent understanding there was then some Order or Ordinance of Parliament lately come forth, which required all Delinquents by themselves, or their Attorneys, to enter their names with the said Comitee w'thin a tyme therein exprest, or else to incur a greater Penaltie; W'ch tyme being neere elapsed, this Deponent being Nephew to the said Alderman Holme, who, as he had alwayes had his continuall Livlyhood and Habitation in the said Citie, did by reason of his great age and imperfections, there continue all the tyme the same was a Garrison for the late King; and fearing lest his said Vnckle might have done something to make him lyable to Sequestration, did in his tender Care to

him give in his name to the said Com'ttee; which to his best Remembrance was without any Order from his said Vnckle, or his consent thereunto. And notwithstanding this Deponent did it, really intending his Vnckles good, by takeing the benefits of the present tyme, Yet his said Vnckle had since disallowed thereof, and sayes He is no wayes lyable to Sequestration.

And I find that upon the said Petition it was ordered by the Com'issioners, the same day, that the Register certefy whether the said Fine was confirmed and when, To the end that if it were not confirmed they might order the Payment thereof unto the Treasure, and if it were confirmed, that the Case might be reported to the Com'ttee of the Army.

But it doth not appeare unto me that anything was done upon that Order or otherwise, untill that by your Letter of the 22th of March, 1654, you directed Mr. ROBINSON, your Com'issioner for the said Citie, to sum'on the said Alderman Holmes and others to pay in their said Fines. In pursuance thereof, your said Com'issioner, the 8th of May, 1655, certefyed the said Alderman to be dead, That his reall Estate (as He your Com'issioner is informed), was passed over to his wife and sonne, by Deeds made long before the Warra. That his Personall Estate was not neere of value to pay his Debts. That he was never there looked upon as a Delinquent, but rather was reputed as a reall Freind to the Parliament; and was a Com'issioner in all Acts and Ordinances for the Monthly Assessment, in the Citie, and was therein very painfull and industrious."

The "Visitation" referred to in the first paragraph was that sad reappearance of THE PLAGUE, in 1647, of which, following so closely on the surrender of the city after its lengthened SIEGE, particulars have already been given in these columns.

It is gratifying to record this incidental testimony to the devotion and self-denial of a man who, having conferred such lustre on the old city through a long and active life, stood nobly by it in its hour of trial, and by his example as a magistrate, and his fearless care for the sick and dying around him, "did the Citie good service."

(To be continued.)

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1111] THE PRINCIPALITY OF CHESTER.

Most readers of local history are aware that King Richard II., out of his special regard for his liegemen of Cheshire, and not satisfied to let our county remain a mere Earldom, erected it into a Principality. But few probably have ever seen, much less read, the Statute under which that dignity was conferred on the Pala-

tinat. We will therefore, from the edition of the Statutes of the Realm printed in 1504 (19 Henry VII.) place the *ipissima verba* of the Act of 21 Richard II., cap. 9, on permanent and accessible local record:—

"Item our soueraigne lorde ye Kynge hathe ordayned & stablysshed for the great charyte & affecyon y^t he hath in the contie of Chester, & to ye gentyls of the same, & for as moche as the king him selfe before that he dyd take the hye dignitie of kyng, & his honorable father before him, and other his noble p'genitours, haue ben Erles of the sayd countie of Chester; and for the great honour of his eldest sonne yf god sende hym any, & of his other heyres whiche shall haue ye same seignorye here after; by the assente & accorde of all the lordes spiritual & temporal, & at the prayer of ye said com'ns, hath ordayned & stablyshed for him & his heyres, that the sayd countie of Chester shall be the principalyte of Chester, from hensforthe named & holden the principalyte of Chester, with all ye lyberties & fraunchises therof had and used, & in the same maner as it hathe ben before when he was named erle of Chester, for ever.

And more ouer the kyng of his certayne soycnee, & by the assent & accorde aforesayd, & for the ease, concorde, & tranquilitye of his liege people of the sayde principalyte, & of the countyes of Flynt & Shropshyre, & of the seignoryes whiche be ioynynge to the same, hathe gran'ted, ordayned & stablyshed that the castell of Lyons [Holt] with the seignorye of Bromfelde and Yale to the sayde castell belongynge. The castell of Chi'ke with the seignorye of Chirkealande to the sayde castell belongynge. The castell of Oswaldstrate, with the townes well walled w^t stone, & the hundrede & xj townes to ye sayd castell belongynge. The castell of Isabell with the seignorye to ye same, belongynge to ye castell of Dallilay with the appurtenances in the countie of Shropshyre, and the reuerocyon of the seignorye of Cleus with all theyr appurtenances whiche Edward erle of Rutlende holdeth for terme of his lyfe: all whiche townes, castels, & seignoryes aforesayd were to Rycharde, late erle of Arundell, and whiche, by force of the iudgement gyven agaynst ye sayd erle in the sayd parlyament be forfeite to our soueraigne lorde the kyng, shalbe from hensforth annexed vnyed and incorporate to the sayde principalyte of Chester, and shall wholly abyde & remayne to the same principalyte as parcell & a nombre [? member] of ye same for ever, without beyngye gyuen, solde, alyened, seured, or departed from the principalyte to any persone by any waye here after.

And that no gyfte nor gran'te at any tyme here after be made of the sayde principalyte nor of ye castels, seignoryes, and townes aforesayde to no person but onely to the kynges eldest sonne whiche shalbe pryncce there, yf it please ye kyng to make hym. And that the same eldest sonne which shall haue ye sayde pryncypalyte shall haue also the sayd castels, signoryes, and townes, as wayed & annexed to the same principalyte withoute beyngye seured or departed from the same in tyme to come, so that

the sayde rescauntes and tanauntes of the lande & all the inhabytauntes within the sayde castels, seignoryes, & townes shall haue, vse, and enioye, all theyr annoyant lawes, ryghtes & customes there of olde tyme reasonably had & vsed.

Saned and reserved alwayes to oure soueraigne lorde the kyng his regalye, lybiertie, & fraunchise, and ye ryghtes of his crowne. Prouyded alwayes that the sayde principalite and the seignoryes aforesayde shall haue and enioye the same lawes, lyberties & customes, vsages, ryghtes, & fraunchises, of olde tyme in the same reasonably had and vsed, as playnely and wholly as it was had and vsed, before the begynnynge of the same parlyament. The name of the countie of Chester chaunged into the name of the pryncipalyte of Chester, and the annexion and vnyon of the sayde castels, seignaryes, and townes to the same, notwithstanding."

On the subject of this local Act, the historian Maitland thus writes:—

"In 1398, King Richard II. brought into Shrewsbury a numerous guard of the Militia of CHESHIRE, who expressed so strong an inclination to serve him that, to gratify the county, he erected it into a Principality, and added to the rest of his titles that of PRINCE OF CHESTER, an appellation however which ceased with its first possessor."

G. T.

Queries.

[1112] BILLY HOBBY'S WELL.

Relative to this well, which now stands at the lower portion of the Grosvenor Park, Chester, which land before was known as Billy Hobby's field, through which field a footpath ran across, passing the well, I find in a little poem, entitled "Farewell to Chester," as follows:

"I lov'd the tales that idle maids would tell,
Of wonders wrought at BILLY HOBBY'S WELL;
Where love-sick girls with leg immured would stand,
The right leg 'twas—the other on dry land,
With face so simple—stocking in the hand—
Wishing for husbands half a winter's day,
With ninety times the seal they used to pray."

What is the meaning of the above? Is there any other remembrance of the custom besides that given by "John" in the above lines published in a Chester paper of January, 1823?

E. M.

Ledsham.

[1113] GULDEN SUTTON.

There are several Suttons round about Chester, but there are few if any that answer to the apparent origin of the name,—South-town. As to the Sutton *par excellence*, known as GULDEN SUTTON, can any one say how it came to bear that name? I have often heard the

tradition that Oliver Cromwell tried in vain to find this little hamlet, and that it was very well for its safety that he failed, as he was bent on sacking it for its loyalty. Is there any truth in the tradition?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[1114] CHESTER GATE.

In what part of the city was this ancient Gate situate? It certainly was not any one of the four great Gates at the cardinal points, nor was it either the Kaleyards Gate, the Pepper Gate, or the Bars Gate. Perhaps some correspondent more learned than myself can give me, and your other readers, some information on this subject.

L. L.

Replies.

[1115] MRS. JORDAN THE ACTRESS.

[Nos. 319, 972*.—Oct. 23, Dec. 31, 1879.]

MRS. JORDAN, as stated, "starred it" at CHESTER Theatre in September, 1789. The advertisement in the *Chester Chronicle* of September 11 stated that the

"THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTER,

Will open on TUESDAY, the 15th of SEPTEMBER, instant, with the Comedy of

THE COUNTRY GIRL.

Moody, Mr. Cook; Melville, Mr. Turpin, being his first appearance on this stage; Sparkish, Mr. Norman, being his first appearance on this stage; Harcourt, Mr. Smith.

The part of the Country Girl, by

MRS. JORDAN,

(From the Theatre-Royal, Drury Lane.)

Lucy, Mrs. Ross; Althea, Mrs. Norman, being her first appearance on this stage.

To which will be added a Farce, as will be expressed in the bills of the day.

☞ Mrs. JORDAN's performance, during her short stay, will be on the intermediate nights of the Eaton plays.

What was performed on the second night the *Chronicle* does not record, but the advertisement on the 18th ran as follows:—

"MRS. JORDAN'S Third and last night.

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTER.

On Saturday, Sept. 13, 1789, will be presented a favourite COMEDY, called

KNOW YOUR OWN MIND,

(Written by the late Arthur Murphy, Esq.)

Millamour, Mr. Whitlock; Malville, Mr. Cooke; Old Bygrove, Mr. Gill; Captain Bygrove, Mr. Turpin; Sir John Millamour, Mr. Hurst; Sir Harry Lovesish, Mr. Norman; Charles, Mr. Morton; Dashwood, Mr. Betterton.

Lady Bell, MRS. JORDAN.

Lady Jane, Mrs. Norman; Lady Bromley, Mrs. Leicester; Madam la Rouge, Mrs. Sparks; Miss Neville, Mrs. Whitlock.

To which will be added a favourite FARCE, called

THE ROMP.

Watty Cockney, Mr. Munden; Barnacle, Mr. Gill; Old Cockney, Mr. Hill; Captain Slightly, Mr. Turpin.

The Romp, MRS. JORDAN.

Penelope, Mrs. Ross; Miss la Blond, Mrs. Norman.

To begin at Seven o'clock precisely.—Boxes, 3s.; Pit, 2s.; Gallery, 1s.—Tickets and places for the Boxes to be taken of Mr. Griffith, glover, near St. Peter's Church.—Tickets for the Pit and Gallery, to be had of Messrs. Poole and Bulkeley, booksellers, and at J. Monk's printing office."

The above must have been in accordance with MRS. JORDAN's previous arrangements; at the conclusion of which she must have been prevailed upon to act one night the following week; for in the *Chronicle* of the 25th is the following notice and critique:—

"Mrs. Jordan has reaped no small share of golden grain during her short theatrical harvest in the city; her four nights producing £130 simply to her own purse!—The fertility of a Chester soil induces us to hope that this circumstance will not materially affect the interest of the gleaners, who are to follow her, and whose industry and ability in the field entitle them at least to a few of the yellow honours. This winning little favourite is no doubt entitled to approbation in almost every part she undertakes; tho' we cannot help thinking that we have seen her equals, if not her superiors, in some, on these boards."

Ledsham.

R. M.

[1116] THOMAS LUNT.

[Nos. 1073, 1094.—March 19, 31.]

I well remember this somewhat eccentric gentleman, referred to by one of the correspondents of THE SHEAF. He was looked upon as a man in advance of his time, when I was a schoolboy going to Messrs. Wood and Pullan's school in Queen-street, and consequently daily passing the scene of his labours as a builder and an Iron Founder. Perhaps the most important work he tried to accomplish was the formation of a Company to undertake the construction of a SHIP CANAL from Chester to Dawpool; so that coasting and other vessels might be able to reach the port of Chester at any time, whatever might be the state of tide. I cannot help thinking that this project was quite feasible; and that, if it had been carried out, it would have vastly added to the material prosperity of our ancient city.

If the files of the local newspapers were looked through, about 50 years back, I think several long letters from Mr. LUNT would be found, detailing the practicability and importance of this scheme. Any list

of local celebrities would be incomplete without an account of this energetic and thoughtful gentleman.

I don't feel satisfied with the statement that TATTEN-HALL was the place of his birth. The family of that name resident in that village did not belong to the Society of Friends, and was otherwise, to my thinking, of a different stock.

Newton.

T. D.-C.

APRIL 28, 1880.

Weekly Story of Local Events.

April 28.—Hugh Lupus, Duke of Westminster, married his cousin, the Lady Constance Gower	1853
„ 29.—Cholera at Chester,—first case occurred in St. Peter's Churchyard	1932
May 1.—Woodside officially named Birkenhead by the Post Office authorities	1836
„ 2.—John Finchett-Maddock appointed Town Clerk of Chester	1817
„ 3.—Cheshire Militia returned to Chester after nearly two years' absence on service	1783
„ 4.—First sod out of the Chester and Nantwich Canal, near the Water Tower ...	1771

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1117] MILTON AND HIS CHESHIRE WIFE.

(Continued from No. 1102.)

Resuming the story where I left it a fortnight ago, let us turn now to the Will of RANDALL GOULDSMYTH of Willaston, eldest son and heir of the RANDLE who died in 1576:—

“xiiij^o January, A'o 1590.

In the name of god, Amen. I, RANDALL GOULDSMYTH, of Willaston in the countie of Chester, yoman', beinge sicke in bodye, but of good, p'fect, and sane memorie, thankes be to god therefore, doe ordayne, constytute, and appoynt this my last will and testam't, in man'er and forme followinge, That ys to saye, I geue and bequeathe my soule into thands of Almightye god my Creato'r and redeemer, by whose mercy and merytes I faythfullie hope to be saved: and my bodye to be buried where yt shall please god to appoynte.

Imp'mis, I geue and bequeathe my best oxe for an herryot to my m'r.

It'm I geue and bequeathe to my iij children, Margaret, Isabell, and Brygette, eu'ie of them one Cowe.

It'm I geue and bequeathe my house and grownds thereto belonginge to my Wiefe, Dorothee goldsmythe, Dueringe the lease yf she kepe herself sole & vnmarried; provyded alwaies that yf my mother doe dep'te this life, and my wiefe lyvinge and vnmarried, that then shee shall haue the other moytie, keepinge herself sole & vnmarried as afore-said.

It'm I geue Thomas Hodson xijd. & John Rocket xijd.

It'm I geue & bequeathe all my goods, moveables and vnmoveables, my debts being paid and fun'all discharged, to my said wife and iij Daughters, the same to be devyded into iij p'ts, That is to saie, ij p'ts to my said Daughter[s], and the thridd p'te to my said wiefe: provyded allwaies that out of the said goodes there shall be paid to my sonne Randell goldsmythe (w'ch I hereby geve & bequeath to hym) the Some of xxi^s. to goe forwards w'th hym.

It'm I geue & bequeath to Randell and Richard godsmyth, my brother's sonnnes, eyther of theym iij^s. iiijd. out of my fore said goods.

It'm I geue & bequeath out of the said goods to Randall owen, Randell Mynshull, & Edward bostooke, eu'ie of theym, xijd. It'm to Marye Kirkes, ijs.

WM. KYRKE, } my executo'rs.

JOHN BOWTTE, }

RAUFE SNEYD, my m'r }

THO: BRASSIE, } overseers.

Detts owinge me, (inter alia)

Richard Mynshull, for flaxe vs.

Richard Mynshull and Tho: as yt appear-
ethe by a note.

Raufe Sneyd de Wiche xs.

Henrye Delves, esq' xvs. vjd.

George Sneyd, gen' iij^s.

Nicolas goldsmythe for three firrens of
sops.

The same Nicholas for one hoggeshead
vynegar.

Rob'te goldsmythe xxvijs.

Detts that I owe.:

Imp'mis to m'r hassall for paire tree feeld xls.

It'm hamnett Malbone..... xli.

Wytnnesses to this Will, Raphe Batriche, Raufe

Whylooke, Edmonde Kirkes, al's Churches.

M'd' that there ys in my howse at the makinge
hereof, in gold & silver, xxi^s. or thereabouts.

I pray yo'r worshipp to keepe this vntill y't be
engrossed in better forme, y't is half done alreadye."

The Inventory includes—

“j gone & j dager that hee geue to his boy, ouer & by
sydes his parte."

Again quitting the GOULDSMYTHS, and turning my
readers' attention to the MYNSHULLS, I come to the
Will of THOMAS MINSHULL, of Wistaston, proved at
Chester, 23rd October, 1608:—

“In the name of god, amen. The fiftenth daie of
September, A'o domini, 1606, I, THOMAS MINSHULL

of Wisterston in the County of Chester, beinge sicke in body, but of p'fect remembraunce (thankes be to god therfore), and considringe that nothinge is more Certaine to man then death, nor eny thinge more vnertaine then the tyme therof, Do ordaine and make this my last will and Testament in manner and forme followinge, that is to saye,

Firste and aboue all thinge I Comende my soule into the handes of Almighty god, trustinge asuredly by the merits and bloudshedinge of Jesus Christe, ande faith in him, to be saved. And my body to be buried in the Churchyarde at Wisterston vpon the south side the Chancell theire. Item I giue and bequeath towards the reparacons of the p'ish Church of Wisterston, lijs. iiijd.

Item I giue and bequeath to Jone Maikyn my Sister, xs. in money, and my best Cloke. Item, I giue and bequeath to Randall Gouldsmith, my Wyfes sonne, xs. Item, I giue and bequeath to Isabell Gouldsmith, my Wyfes eldest daughter, xs. Item, I giue and bequeath to Bridget Gouldsmith, my Wyfes youngest daughter, xs. Item, I giue and bequeath to mabell minshull, my sonne Richarde his daughter, one flaxen sheete and one pillow beare.

And of all the Rest and residue of my goodes, my debts beinge payed and funeral expenses and legacies discharged, I giue to Dorety Minshull, my welbelovyd wyfe, the Therd p'te. And all the Rest of my goodes vnbequeath'd, I giue and bequeath to Richarde Minshall and William Minshall, my two sonnes, to be equally divided betwixt them.

Also, I do revoke all former Willes and Testaments made or Caused to be made by me heretofore.

And of this my last Will and Testament I do constitute and make Richard Minshall and William Minshall, my two sonnes, my true and lawfull exco'tors. And do desire Randall Maykyn of Wolfall, and Richard Clutton of Hunsterton, to be on'seers that the same may be p'formed accordingly."

Inventory £83 5s. 8d., including the following:—

"It'm, wheeles, Hetnehewes, bagges, Sines, winowinge sheete, Riplecombe, hoopess, peeks and such lyke, praised at.....vjs."

Here I again rest for a week, and will endeavour in my next to unravel the tangle which has hitherto confused the pedigree of JOHN MILTON's Widow.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1118] HIGH SHERIFF'S PROCESSION, 1831.

This year the office of High Sheriff for Cheshire was held by Sir THOMAS STANLEY MASSEY STANLEY, Bart., of Hooton; and his procession to meet the Judge at Saltnay, on the 11th of August, started from HOOTON Hall in the following order:—

"Two Trumpeters.

Eighteen javelin men, two and two.

Twelve servants in livery.

Eighty-eight tenants and yeomanry, two and two, Sheriff's Officers.

Philip Humberston, Esq., Under Sheriff.

Sheriff's Officers.

Sixty-two gentlemen, two and two.

Two trumpeters in livery mounted on long tailed ponies.

Mr. Dunstan, Constable of Chester Castle.

The High Sheriff's carriage containing the High Sheriff and his Chaplain (the Venerable Archdeacon Clarke), and drawn by four beautiful bays.

Sixteen servants in livery, two and two.

Carriage and four, containing Lady Stanley and Miss Stanley.

Two outriders.

A carriage and four, containing Mr. Charles Stanley and other members of the family.

Six servants, two and two.

Five private gentlemen's carriages, namely, General Glegg's, Rev. J. Mainwaring's, Rev. R. M. Fielden's, Mr. Congreve's, of Burton, and Mr. Green's, of Poulton.

A barouche and four, with postilions, containing Mr. Ball, of Birkenhead, and a party.

A four-in-hand barouche

containing Mr. Whaley, of the *White Lion*, Chester Mr. Smith, of Milton Brook, and a party of friends.

A barouche and four fine bays.

The *London Mail*,

drawn by four superb piebalds, with Mr. Jos. Jones, one of the proprietors, and a party of friends.

The *Hereford Mail*,

drawn by four finely matched greys, with Mr. Herbert, one of the proprietors, and a party of friends.

Twenty-five gigs, cabs, &c., closed the procession; the Guards and Coachmen being in their birthday clothes; the coaches and other vehicles being decorated with laurel, and every member of the procession bearing a rosette of the Sheriff's colours (purple and yellow). Of course all were on horse-back, except where otherwise described.

Ledsham.

R. M.

[1119] RICHARD OF BURY, A CHAMBERLAIN OF THE PALATINATE OF CHESTER.

"Vir ardentis ingenii."—PETRARCH.

The distinguished ecclesiastic known as Richard de Bury, but whose real name was Richard d'Aungerville, the son of Sir Richard d'Aungerville of Normandy, was born near Bury St. Edmonds, in Suffolk, in 1287. From his childhood he was associated with literary men, and having in his early days formed a love of books, he made their collection the chief aim of his life. It was in 1435, the year of his death, that he completed the composition of the *Philobiblon*, "a pious memorial of himself before God" (*piam ipsius memoriam coram Deo*, as he calls it),—the treatise which has made his

memory so dear to bibliophiles. De Bury was a busy Churchman, and an active statesman; and he rose in the reign of Edward III. to be Bishop of Durham, 1333, and Lord Treasurer and Lord Chancellor of England, 1334. His devotion to books and reading was very remarkable. "What can be more delightful to a lover of his country's intellectual reputation," asks Dr. Dibdin, "than to find such a character as de Bury, in such an age of war and bloodshed, uniting the calm and mild character of a legislator with the sagacity of a philosopher and the elegant-mindedness of a scholar!"

De Bury, in his appointment as Dean of Wells, which he received 20 Feb., 1322, is described in the Episcopal Register as Richard de Bury, *alias de Sancto Edmundo* (Le Neve, i. 151). The peculiar form of this alias, which excites curiosity as to its meaning, called to my mind a similar phrase in one of the lists of names in part i. of the new edition of Ormerod's *History of Cheshire*; upon turning to which the name was found amongst the Chamberlains of the County Palatine of Chester (vol. i., p. 59), thus,—

"1321. Ricardus de Sancto Edmundo, 15 Edw. 2."

It is one of the names of those officials which Sir Peter Leycester copied with his own hand out of the Records which at that time were at Chester (*Antiquities*, page 170). But neither Sir Peter nor Ormerod and his last editor had any suspicion that this official was the same person as the learned bibliophile, whose name has been perplexingly indexed under the letters A, B, D (De, Durham, Dunelm.), and B; and in dealing with whom it is to be remembered that a Chester (*viz.*, Chester-le-street) was in his own bishopric, and that it frequently occurs in the "Roll" of his episcopate, extending from 7th December, 1333, to 14th April, 1345. His birth-place was formerly called Bury, or St. Edmund's Bury, now Bury St. Edmunds; but the words "*de Sancto Edmundo*," applied to the Cheshire Chamberlain, might have been used on account of the contiguity of the Palatinate of Chester to the Lancaster Bury. At that time it was customary for priests, when they became celebrated or filled offices of importance, to employ the name of their place of birth as a surname; and hence de Bury, known at first as Richard d'Aungerville,* and

* "*Willoughby*, in the Hundred of *Guthlakeston*, surnam'd *Waterlesse*, perhaps of the high situation thereof. This manner was (for the most part all) the inheritance of that ancient family of *Angerville*, who bare *Gw.* a cinque foyle, *Er.* a border, *Sa.* bizantee. Of this house was Sir *Richard de Angerville*, Knight, L. of this Mannor, who had issue *Richard*, borne at Saint *Edmonds Bury*, in *Suffolke*, who, taking vpon him religious Orders, forsooke the name of *Angerville*, and and was called *de Bury* of the place of his natiuitie, as it appeared in *Io: Trittenham De Script. Ecclesiasticis*; and Bishop *Godwin*, in his Catalogue of Bishops. It was the vve in those times, vpon the entry into religion, to alter the name, and to take it from the

then as de St. Edmund's, was in his later years described as Richard de Bury, his present recognised appellation. Hence, too, his name on the list of the Chamberlains of the Palatinate shews him to have been a cleric, nearly all his predecessors and successors being laymen, with laymen's forms of surnames. The gift of the office was from the hands of Edward II., Earl of Chester, to whose young son, Edward Prince of Wales, de Bury was at this time tutor. The Cheshire Recognizance Rolls in the Record Office, London, furnish the date of de Bury's appointment, *viz.*, 16 Edw. II., on the Monday in the feast of St. Nicholas the bishop (*i.e.*, 6th December, 1322). It is added that de Bury is "mentioned on the 18th July, 18 Edw. II. (1324), as late Chamberlain" (Appendix, xxxist *Report Deputy-Keeper Public Records*, page 194, where de Bury, as if to increase the complication, is indexed under *Edmund*. This entry is on a Recognizance Roll, 8-16 Edw. II). De Bury occurs with his successor upon a Chester Chamberlains' Roll of 2 Edw. III., thus:—"Ric'd de Bury and Magr. Will'd de Esyngton Cam'ar' Precedent." Esyngton was Chamberlain 18-19 Edw. II., and John Paynel occurs 2 Edw. III. (From the original Rolls.)

The chamberlainship was not apparently the first post which de Bury held in the Palatinate. His name occurs as Clerk to the Justice (Itinerant) of Chester on 8th August, 1319, when a memorandum relating to an acknowledgement of a debt, &c., was made upon a Chester Recognizance Roll, 12-13 Edw. II., which states that John de Thornham, late Bailiff of the Manor of Frodesham, came into the Exchequer of Chester before (*inter alia*) "Ric'o de Bury tu'o ol'ioo Justic' Cestr." See xxxist *Report Deputy-Keeper*, page 181.

The identity of the Chamberlain with the author of *Philobiblon* is amply proved by other documents in the Record Office, and elsewhere. In 1328, *Dominus*

plac; for that by their taking religious habits, they were dead persons in Law, as to the world; their next Heyre should inherit and enter vpon their land as if they were dead indeed; and professing themselves of an Order they were receiued to a spirituall life, and so assumed a new name. Infinite are the examples wherein I could give instance; but I will only name one of this house, and vnote to this man, *John de Willoughbie* to whom by his father (who died leauing this *Richard* young) the tuition of him was committed: this *John de Willoughbie* was owne brother to Sir *Richard de Angerville*, and borne at this *Willoughbie*; who taking vpon him the Orders of a Religious man, called himselfe *de Willoughby*. This *Richard de Bury*, nevertheless, is called *de Angerville* by *Io: Rous*, *Io. Leland*, (*De Ser. illustr.* fol. 271), and *John Bale*, (*cent.* 5. fol. 426); and also acknowledged by Bishop *Godwin* (*Cat. Bish.* 524), who hath set downe his life very exactly."—Burton's *Leicester-shire*, ed. 1622, p. 308.

(i.e. Dan, his title as a Canon of York in Abp. Melton's Register), Richard de Bury is named in the Chester Chamberlains' accounts as "Treasurer of the King's Wardrobe," the King being Edward III., his former charge, who had ascended the throne 25 Jan., 1326-7. (*Ibid.*, p. 181). Now the memoirs of de Bury state that his first offices under the new King were those of Cofferer, *Treasurer of the Wardrobe*, and Keeper of the Privy Seal. Other documents are found in which de Bury is likewise called the Chamberlain of Chester. One is in an epistle in one of his own books, still in existence, containing examples or forms of letters, from the Kings, Popes, &c., of de Bury's time, collected, according to Sir Thomas D. Hardy, as precedents to assist de Bury in framing similar letters when he was Chancellor of England. The examples in it relating to the Bishopric of Durham have been printed in Vol. IV. of the *Registrum Palatinum Dunelm.*, pp. 372 and onward, edited by Sir Thomas D. Hardy, in the series of the Master of the Rolls; and all the other examples are calendared in the preface to the same volume, pp. xxvii seq. The letter to be cited falls in the term of de Bury's chamberlainship, for it is addressed by John (de Cookerham?), Abbot of the Monastery of Furness, Lancashire, to his most dear friend in Christ, Richard de Bury "Camerarius Cestrensis." Some former dealings appear to be hinted at in the communication, which is of a mere complimentary character, stating that de Bury's great deserts had provoked the gratitude of the writer, who was ready to do anything to promote his friend's honour.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

Stratford, Manchester.

(Continued at No. 1127.)

Queries.

[1120]

GEORGE CLARK.

He was Governor of New York in 1736; he married Anne Hyde, a connection of the Clarendon family, and died at his residence in Cheshire in 1759. Where? Who is the present representative of the family?

B. H. BREDHAM.

Replies.

[1121] THE ANCIENT BRITISH CHURCH.

FAMILY OF WILSON OF THE HEALD.

[Nos. 608, 1108.—April 9, 1879, April 14, 1880.]

Chancing to see THE CHESHIRE SHEAF of April 14th, 1880, I find there mention of a Miss Wilson, "said to have been a native of HEILD, in the parish of

Great Budworth," who became the mother of the late ARCHDEACON EVANS. This sets me upon the enquiry whether "the parish of Great Budworth" may not possibly be an error; as I find records in the local Registers and Rate-books of a family of WILSON settled in the 18th century at "THE HEALD," a curious old house in the Parish of WRENBURY-CUM-FRITH. They were people of respectability: one of them was a Trustee of the Wrenbury Charities; one, I think, a Clergyman in Chester.

"The Heald" is a lone house, about a mile out of Wrenbury, on the Malpas road; forming, in its present state (without regard to modern additions), two sides of a small square, with its gables towards the south and west. Its situation is pleasant, upon the Weaver, which is there a bright swift rivulet. For construction, it seems to be of lath and plaster stuccoed, upon foundations of ashlar stone in two courses. The western gable is adorned with carved wood work in 17th century patterns, and rests on brackets elegantly incised of the letter S form. This façade shews 2 stories projecting in the ancient English manner, and resting on beams tastefully moulded and sculptured. The ground floor room in this western compartment is low and square, with moulded roof beams, and panelled. The panels are profusely moulded: and in part additionally enriched with diamonds and other devices. It has curious closets, and a modern fire-place.

In the other or southern compartment of the house, the ground-floor room is curiously like a ship's cabin, small and quaint. The bedrooms are no less curious and antiquated in their arrangements; communicating through closets, and generally queer, and traditionally haunted.

One enters the house under a little projecting portal dated 1706; but its inner or wall door has a mutilated old stone above it, with this broken legend:—

"John Wicksted: J
John Brownfall: 161[1?]"

This stone may have been brought from elsewhere, for I find no recorded residence of Wicksted or Brownfall at "The Heald." Under this stone, one comes into an entrance hall, large for the size of the house, where is an old fireplace,—a moulded low Tudor arch dated 1611, which therefore I take to be the date of the oldest part of the present house. The name of this old house is still rightly pronounced "Yeld," an old English word for "tenement," from the Anglo Saxon verb "healdan" to hold. It is always spelt "Heald."

Its situation is on the border of Wrenbury "Frith" or Forest. The word "Frith" occurs in old English literature, and is, perhaps, "Free-th" (free forest), though Morris and Skeat refer it to Gaelic and Welsh.

I find by my books that John Wilson, gentleman, of the Heald, married Hannah Smith, in 1748. They had children baptized here—Elizabeth Abigail, baptized 1749; Robert, 1750; and Hannah Beatrice, 1752. I

do not, on a hasty search, find other children. Did they remove, and call their next residence "The Heald"?

Wrenbury.

T. W. N.

[1122] JAMES, DUKE OF MONMOUTH.

[Nos. 915, 948.—Nov. 26, Dec. 17.]

In reply to "W.B.," the name of the person who wrote the account mentioned in No. 915 was "JOHN TURBUT," in some of the entries in the same book spelt "Turbutt" and "Turbett." The book is a small duodecimo, bound in brown calf, with two brass clasps; and contains family and other entries, ranging from 1654 to 1777. It would appear that John Turbut had been born in Ireland, where there were many settlements of the Huguenots; and that from thence he went to Cheshire, as would appear from the following entry:—

"John Turbut was married to Alice Grasty at Warbuton in Chessaheer.

" November the 17
1690."

The next entry runs thus:—

"Mary our first Child was born in Warrington in LanKishere, Octobr. 15
1681."

From Warrington it appears he came to Dublin and settled there. There is an entry as follows:—

" July the 23d, 1695.

"I was this day maid free of the City of Dublin, when Alderman Black Hall was Lord Mayor of the City of Dublin.

"John Turbut."

Again—

" John Turbutt was sworn warden of the Corporation of the Hosiers—

23 of Aprill, 1703."

This last entry is evidently not in the same handwriting as the former ones.

There are two entries relating to the family into which Turbut married—the first is a

"Memorandum that Mr. Thomas Grasty of Warfoord in Chessaheer, my wife's father, departed this life the 11th day of Jan'y, 1698—and he was buried in Orderly church in Chessaheer the 14th of the same month."

Again, an entry evidently, I should say, by the son of the said John Turbut:—

" 1749-50, March 1st.

"Then my Coz'n Thom's Grastie dyed suddenly in the Town of Warrington in Lancashire, and the 15th of Aprill following I went over, & the 19th landed in Liverpool, and return'd the June following.

"S. Turbutt."

I shall only trouble the Editor with one entry more, as I am anxious to learn something of the family of "Heath," if any of the readers of THE SHEAF can supply the information:—

"1708, July 4th.

Then Cosen Sam'l Heath departed this life, and cosen Heath Body was cared for England, and I John Turbutt, went to see him Buried in Presbery Church, according to his will, and he was buried the 14 day of the same month of July, 1708."

From the style of writing and the spelling, this entry would appear to have been made by a different John Turbut, who chose to change the spelling of the family name. The name Turbett now belongs to a family resident in Dublin and its neighbourhood, of the very highest respectability. W. MONK GIBBON.

Dublin, 15th April, 1880.

MAY 5, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- May 5.—Samuel Johnson (*alias* "Lord Flame") buried in the grounds of Gaws-worth Hall 1773
- " 6.—"The Glorious Sixth of May,"—Mr. (afterwards Sir John) Egerton first returned M.P. for Chester 1807
- " 9.—The last public Execution on Gallows Hill, Chester, took place..... 1801
- " 10.—Francis Gastrell, Bishop of Chester, born at Slapton, Northants 1662
- " 11.—The Bishop's new Private Chapel at the Dee Side Palace, Chester, consecrated by Bishop Jacobson..... 1870
- J. H.

Original Documents.

[1123] A CHESTER ANTIQUARY IN TROUBLE.
(Continued from No. 1110.)

I resume the thread of my narrative at the point where some of the prominent men of the city came forward to vouch for the loyalty of the elder Holme to the then ruling powers. Most of them were undoubtedly Royalists at heart, as indeed had been old Bandle himself; but they sank their politics for the moment, in order to do a good turn to the son of their old friend who was dead and gone. The Commissioner proceeds as follows:—

"And your said Com'issioner the 29th of June, 1655, certified the Examinations of severall Witnesses taken in this Case, in pursuance of your said Order of Reference.

WILLIAM INCE, of the Citie of Chester, Alderman and Justice of Peace, deposeth that he knew the said Alderman HOLME deceased, who was aged about 80 yeares when he dyed, as this Deponent hath

credibly heard and beleives. And that the said Randle Holme and his family did live in Chester all the tyme of his knowledg of him, which was about forty yeares; and that in the tyme that Chester was a Garrison for the late King, the said Mr. Holme did behave himself very peaceably and Loveingly, and he doth know no good cause that was of Sequestration against him. That after the said Cittie was Reduced to the obedience of Parliament, the said Randle Holme was continued as Alderman and Justice of Peace, and did Act for the Parliament, and was never turned out of power as others were; but was, by direction from above by severall Acts of Parliam't, made and nominated a Com'issioner for the raising of monthly Assessm'ts, in which he was diligent, and spent his tyme and paines; And doth beleive he had a very good Affection to the Parliament.

RICHARD LEICESTER of the Citie of Chester, Alderman and Justice of Peace, deposeth that he did know Randle Holme, Alderman, deceased, for this 60 yeares at least, And during his knowledg lived in his Family in the Bridgestreet in Chester, both peaceably and civilly, and dyed very old, as he hath heard about 80 yeares of age; And deposeth that before and since theise late troubles or warr, that the said Mr. Holme, deceased, being aged, lived in the said City where his subsistance was, and was ever held a peaceable man, and looked upon as the Parliaments freind, and Accompted to be a very good Cittizen; and after the Reducing of the Cittie, was soe well liked of, as he was kept in his place of Aldermanship and Justice of Peace, to the day of his death; and was nominated a Com'issioner for monthly Assessments, and other publique affaires; and did act therein for the Parliament and Com'onwealth very faithfully, to this Deponents owne knowledg, by which he was conceived he was well affected to the present Government; And that he never heard or knew the said RANDLE HOLME, deceased, to be under or lyable to sequestration.

JOHN JOHNSON of Chester, Alderman and Justice of Peace, WILLIAM BENNIT of the said Citie, Alderman and Justice of Peace, THOMAS PARNELL of the said Citie, Ironmonger, MATHEW ELLYS of the Countie of the Citie of Chester, Gentleman, and THOMAS BROWNE of the said Countie, Gent', severally examined, depose to the same effect.

The said THOMAS PARNELL further deposeth that after the Reducing of the Citie of Chester, Sir WILLIAM BRERETON, then Generall and Governour of the said Citie, did looke upon the said Mr. Holme deceased, not as a Delinquent, but as a freind to the Parliament; and employed him as a friend of Trust, to repaire the Breaches of the said Walls, and other business for the good of the State and the defence of the said Citie.

The said WILLIAM BENNIT further deposeth that the said Randle Holme, deceased, after the Citie was Reduced, as Murenger repaired the Breaches of the Walls of the Citie; and was

Intrusted by Sir WILLIAM BRERETON, and the then Com'ittee of Chester, to see the Walls and Breaches repaired as aforesaid, as this Deponent hath heard.

The said RICHARD LEICESTER further deposeth he hath heard Sir W'm BRERETON, late Gen'll and Governour of the Citie of Chester, respected the said Mr. Holme, deceased, very much; and did employ him in trust for repaire of the Walls, being battered, after the reducing of the said Cittie.

The said THOMAS BROWN further deposeth that the said Randle Holme, deceased, was infirme, and unable to leave his dwelling in the said Citie, as the Deponent beleives; for that to this Deponents best Remembrance he was never tenne myles from home, by the space of 20 yeares last past or thereabouts before his death, and by reason of a rupture which he often complained of, unable to ryde abroad; and that he acted in his Place for the publique good, even to the preindice of his health, as this Deponent beleives.

The said MATHEW ELLYS further deposeth that the said Randle Holme, deceased, was infirm, by reason of a Rupture which disabled him.

The said William Bennit, Thomas Parnell, Mathew Ellys, and Thomas Browne further depose, that they have heard the said Randle Holme affirme and complaine, that the said Thomas Aloock (who dyed in March, 1652) preferred the said Petition to compound, without the privity of the said Randle Holme, deceased, and that he, the said Randle Holme, was much wronged thereby. The said Thomas Browne addes, that the said Thomas Aloock did acknowledg unto him, the Deponent, that he, the said Aloock, did prefer the said Petition without the privity and consent of his said Vnkle.

The said THOMAS PARNELL further deposeth, that he never saw any such Deed made by the said Randle Holme to his sonne before marryage; but that he hath heard there is such a one, and that it is in the hands of Mrs. Holmes, widow or Relict to the said Randle Holme, deceased; and that he was Requested to move her to part with the said Deed, to be shewed to the Com'ission'rs for sequestrations now, for the clearing of the said Estate; but in regard of the care of her Grandchildren, she being afraid least it should be lost or any way injured, would not be drawne to part with it, but acknowledged that to be the very Deed of Estate; and that there is a Counterpart thereof now in the hands of the Petitioner, Randle Holme, which this Deponent hath seene in the hand of the said Petitioner, whome it doth concerne. And that the said Randle Holme, deceased, his Estate of and in the Lands in the said Deed mencioned, was but for the tyme of his life: and, for his personall Estate, this Deponent saith that after the death of the said Randle Holme, he, this Deponent, being upon occasion when the goods and Estate were to be praised, at the house late the said Randle Holmes, it then appeared the said Randle Holmes his whole

personall Estate, being nothing but some Household goods, and long and much worn, were but of small value; And of such value as will not, as this Deponent beleives by farr, reach to pay the severall expences and debts of the said Randle Holme, deceased. And his sonne, the Petitioner, by takinge the Executorshipp upon him, wilbe a great looser thereby; But that he was willing, as much as in him lay, to preserve his father's credit therein, in regard in the late Warrs his Estate was much Lessened."

Of the above Witnesses, Matthew Ellis and Thomas Browne were near relatives to the elder Randle Holme, through his second marriage. William Ince was M.P. for Chester immediately after the Restoration; and a copy of his monument in Holy Trinity Church will be found at No. 825 of THE SHEAF. Thomas Parnell was a Congleton man, and closely related to his post namesake, the Archdeacon of Clogher, who also was buried at Holy Trinity Church. T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1124] CHESTER RACES FIFTY YEARS AGO.

I found the following scrap among some old papers I was looking over the other day. Perhaps it may interest some of the venerable citizens:—

AN INVITATION.

"I hereby give notice, may loudly proclaim,
To men, maids, and matrons, of every degree,
That on MONDAY, our Races, devoted to fame,
Commence.—Gents and Ladies, pray listen to me,
While I their attractions and pleasures rehearse,
Recount their festivities, jovial and gay,
Not in dull sleepy prose, but in musical verse,
Where the Muse may indulge, and the fancy find play.
Know, then, all our houses and shops are in trim,
Slap-dashers and painters have put forth their skill;
Our cits are in spirits, their spouses all prim,
To welcome your presence with hearty good will.
To the ROYAL and ALBION, ye gentry, repair,—
Apartments await you, both tasteful and fine,
Where lords and their spouses resort, debonaire,
And viands delicious give zest to the wine.
WILL JONES, of the *Feathers*, will welcome his friends
And worthy Equestrians, second in grade;
At *One* he will lunch them, and make full amends
By the plentiful tables invitingly laid.
Mine hosts of the *Hop-Pole*, and *Blossome*, so kind,
With the *Lions*, the *Golden*, the *White*, and the *Red*,
Smooth treatment will shew, and each customer find
Good victuals, good drink, and an excellent bed.
All our pot-houses too, and their braw Bonifaces,
Will welcome with pleasure the plain country folk;
Where a tap they will find, just prepar'd for the Races,
And may mix in the dance, and the song, and the joke.
Come, come then, good friends, far and near, I invite you,
Young, old, rich and poor, ev'ry size, and each sex;
Our varied amusements will surely delight you,
And frolic and fun banish cares that perplex.

Our Play-house will sport all its wonted attraction,
The Ball-room its splendour of fashion display;
And the *Tables*!—but soft!—that's a legal infraction—
The Mayor may read this—and he will, I dare say.
Then in Shows we abound; birds and beasts wild and tame,
Fire-eaters, rope-dancers, and tumblers so nimble,
Our Hobs will delight, who, if fond of the game,
Their fortunes may try at the *Garier* and *Thimble*.
If music, sweet music, has charms to allure you,
Then here will reign harmony, dulcet and sweet!
Fiddle, bagpipe, and organ, in style, I assure you,
Hurdy-gurdy, and tabret, in every street.
Or, if fine vocal harmony still more delight,
See the *list-merchant*-mob round the printer's collect;
Then listen, enchanted, from morning till night,
To that beautiful melody, "*MONK'S CORNET*."
And know, noble sportsmen, our Races this year,
Quite bristle in prizes, in cattle excel;
Note the *ENTRANCES* that in *THIS DAY'S PAPER* appear,
And the prospect will raise in your bosom a swell.
Besides, the green turf on our famous Boodee
Is in excellent order to favour the race;
And if clouds inauspicious should prove, d'ye see?
As the Grand Stand's enlarg'd, you may there take your
place!

Chester, April 28, 1830.

H."

The Temple, London. R. WILBRAHAM JONES.

[1125] CHESTER CUP, 1830.

The Chester Tradesmen's Cup this year was a salver, richly gilt on both sides, exquisitely chased in the middle, and having a beautiful rich and classical border with the figures in fine relief, from models out expressly for the work. The subjects were, the Centaurs instructing Achilles in the use of the bow; Aeteson surprising Diana and her nymphs at the fountain; Meleager and Atalanta; the marriage of Cupid and Psyche; the death of Adonis; and the destruction of Niobe's family; and, inscribed in the centre, "*TRADESMEN'S PLATE, CHESTER RACES, 1830.*" It was run on Monday, May 3, and won by Lord Derby's b.c. Felt, 4 yrs old, the jockey being Johnson.

Ledsham.

R. M.

[1126] A STOUT CHESTER BOY.

The *Sporting Magazine* of 1792 says, that, on May 21 of that year,

"A very young boy, for a trifling wager, ran twice round the City Walls of Chester (three miles and a half) in 23 minutes; numerous spectators were present, who deemed it a very extraordinary pedestrian exploit, particularly as the youth was only 12 years of age."

Crocewylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

We have searched the files both of the *Chester Courant* and *Chronicle*, in the expectation of finding some further particulars of this youngster's performances, but have been disappointed. We did, however, find the following record of another local sporting event which, occurring in the same year, 1792, may form a fitting sequel to "A. R.'s" communication:—

"Friday, August 10. A young man of the name of WOODFIN, of Shotwick, in Wirral, undertook for a wager to go 150 yards at 50 successive hops. This singular wager was decided on the new inclosed Salt Marsh, near this city,—when he went above 151 yards at 46 hops, with apparent ease. The above is the person who went 61 yards at 17 hops, on the Roodeye, in January, 1791, as mentioned at the time in this paper."

EDITOR.

[1127] RICHARD OF BURY, A CHAMBERLAIN OF
THE PALATINATE OF CHESTER.

(Continued from No. 1119.)

It runs as follows (Vol. IV. *Registrum*, p. 433):—

Litera regrat- } Honorabili viro et amico in Christo
iatoria* } sibi carissimo Ricardo de Bury,
Camerario Cestrensi, suns frater, Johannes, Abbas de
Furnesio, paratam ad omnimoda ejus beneplacita
voluntatem. Ne immensa quibus nos praevenistis
gratitudinis merita exoidisse nobis memoriae, vide-
antur, de eisdem gratias vobis referimus viscerales;
supplices ut si quid per nos fieri poterit quod
gratum vobis existat aut cedere valeat ad honorem,
inde nobis eo confidentius praecipiat vestrae bene-
placita voluntatis quo scire indubitantes debeatis,
quod scimus et possumus, vestri sumus. Diu in
Christo valeat vestra dilectio per gradus prosperos
et successus felices jugiter exaltanda."

This epistle is followed by another of some local interest. It is a copy of a letter, addressed by Walter Melton, Archbishop of York (1317-40), to Wm. de Lancastre, burgess of Chester. The writer tenders his special entreaty for his friend in Christ, Thomas de la Dale; and warmly asks for him (Dale) his (Lancastre's) friendship, advice, help, and favour, as far as possible, without wronging justice, in the business he is going to do, and continue doing, in the town of Chester and in the neighbouring parts, and to try to obtain the same for him from others. The epistle, as is shown by the marginal note, was entered by Richard de Bury in his letter-book as a form for making a request.

Rogatio ut } W., permissione divina Eboracensis
assistatur } Archiepiscopus, Angliae Primas, amico
alicui in } nostro in Christo carissimo W. de
auxilio } Lancastre, burgensi Cestriae salutem,
gratiam et benedictionem. Pro dilecto nostro in
Christo Thoma de la Dale preces vobis porrigimus
speciales, amicitiam vestram ex corde rogantes
quatinus eidem in negotiis quae in villa Cestriae seu
lecia vicinis expedienda jam habet, ac etiam prose-
quenda, consilium, auxilium, et favorem quae
poteritis, inoffensa justicia, sibi impertiri, ac ad alii
velitis hoc familiariter procurare; adeo ut has
preces nostras sibi sentiat effectualiter profecisse.
Valet in Domino.

* A hand is drawn against this letter within the margin, with the words, *Nota bonum pro regratatorio*.

The unique MS. Guide to Letter-writing, from which the foregoing epistles have been taken, was written in the 14th century. On the first page is an inscription in a hand of the reign of Richard II., or even later, *Lib' Epistolaris q'oda' d'ni Ricardi de Bury Ep'i Dunelm'* (Letter-book once belonging to Richard de Bury, Lord Bishop of Durham). It has also in a later hand the words *Lib' Moch' S'e'i Edm'i Reg' et Martir'* (Book belonging to the monastery of St. Edmund, King and Martyr). These inscriptions show that the volume was acquired by the monastery of Bury St. Edmunds after Bishop de Bury's death, out of consideration for his connection with the neighbourhood of the town. It ultimately passed into the Porkington Library, and belonged to Lord Harleoh. It is described as a small folio of 240 leaves, but had formerly as many as 1004. See *Regia. Palat. Dunelm.* iv., p. xxv.

De Bury's connection with the Palatinate of Chester did not apparently cease upon his resignation of the Chamberlainship. A document dated 1327-8 has already been cited. The Welsh Records in the Record Office contain a membrane two years earlier, relating to a fine of one messuage and 400 acres of land in Shibbrok (i.e., Shipbrook, near Northwich), between Ralph de Vernon, senior, and Richard de Sanote Edmundo, 19 Edward II. The reference to the Roll is 18 and 19 Edward II., m. 14 (Appendix, xxviii. *Report Deputy-Keeper*, page 122).

Certain accounts in connection with the Chamberlain's office remained unsettled in the year 1341. In the Close Rolls, 15 Edward III., the King granted to Richard de Bury a remission of various moneys, officially due from him as "our Chamberlain of Chester and our Constable of Burgundy, before we undertook the government of our Kingdom." The document is as follows:—

Rex Thesaurario et Baronibus suis de Scaccario salutem. Cum quarto die Junii anno regni nostri nono [4th June, 1335] attendentes grata et laudabilia obsequia quae venerabilis pater Ricardus de Bury episcopus Dunelm. nobis multipliciter impendit non absque laboribus sumptuosis et extunc impendere non desistit ac volentes eo pretextu ipsum episcopum favore prosequi gratioso pardonaverimus eidem episcopo omnimoda debita quae nobis tunc debuit ad Scaccarium predictum vel in garderobera nostra sive in aliis curis nostris aut alibi ex quibuscunque causis tam de tempore quo idem Ricardus camararius noster Cestr' et Constabularius noster Burdeg' antequam gubernacula regni nostri suscepimus quam de tempore quo custos garderebae nostrae seu alius officiar' noster post suspensionem regiminis regni nostri predicti extitit. Remiserimus insuper eidem episcopo omnimoda compota quae nobis tunc reddere teneretur ad Scaccarium predictum vel alibi de temporibus supradictis et ipsum episcopum heredes et executores testamenti sui inquietaverimus prout in literis nostris patentibus

inde confectis plenius continetur vobis mandamus quod ipsum episcopum de omnimoda debitis nobis ad Scaccarium predictum vel in garderoba nostrasive aliis curis nostris aut alibi ex quibuscumque causis tam de tempore quo idem Ricardus camararius noster Cestr' et Constabularius noster Burdeg' antequam gubernacula regni nostri suscepimus quam de tempore quo custos garderobae nostras seu alius officiar' noster post susceptionem regiminis dicti regni nostri extitit usque ad dictum quartum diem Junii ac compotis ai quae nobis ad idem Scaccarium vel alibi de temporibus predictis reddere teneatur ad dictum Scaccarium exonorari et quietum esse facit juxta tenorem literas nostras predictas. Teste Rege apud Westm' xx die Octobris. (Additamenta, Regist. Palat. Dunelm. iv. 248-9).

"Cheshire chief of men" may thus claim this celebrated person as one of its denizens for a time. In the library of Chester monastery, as well as in those of other religious establishments; in the Rows of the city; as well as in the surrounding districts; the book-loving ecclesiastic certainly followed his engrossing quest, redeeming, as in his journeys to the continent, inestimable literary treasures from dirt and dust, and scattering his money with a light heart (*pecuniam lato corde dispersimus, atque libros impreciabiles luto redemimus et arena. Philob., Capit. viij.*).

RICHARD DE BURY's name will, no doubt, be found in connection with other public documents in this neighbourhood. One instance? occurs in a Lancashire document. In 1332, Sir Geoffrey de Scrop gave the manor of Cho (Chew) and part of the town of Billington, near Blackburn, co. Lancaster, to the Abbey of Whalley, in this county. Some documents relating to this transaction have been preserved in the Coucher Book of the Abbey. (Vol. IV., pp. 994-5.) There is the King's Writ, called the *Ad quod Damnum*, addressed to the Escheator of the county, 28th June, 1332, to protect the Crown rights from injury or encroachment. The inquisition then ordered, to be returned to the Chancellor, was held at Clithrow on the 4th May following, before John de Louthre, the Escheator of the King beyond Trent, and twelve jurors. The names of the latter were as follows:—

<i>Richard de Bury,</i>	Henry de Ruyssbeton
John de Legh,	John de Clayton,
Adam de Walschagh,	William de Blakeburne,
Philip de Clayton,	Thomas de Sodehull,
Adam de Wynkedlegh,	William del Hakkyng, and
Henry de Clayton,	William de Livesay;

who swore that neither the King nor others would receive any damage if the deed of gift to the Abbey were perfected. This deed is referred to in Mr. Abram's *History of Blackburn*, page 427, in the account of Billington under the Abbots of Whalley; and the Manor of Cho is dealt with in the same work at page 442.

Stretford, Manchester.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

Queries.

[1128]

ARNOLD'S EYE.

Whereabouts precisely on the Dee is the point called sometimes Arnold's Eyre, and at others Arnold's Eye? Various localities on the river have been suggested from time to time in local newspapers and other prints; but I should imagine some definite spot must have been set down by competent authority as that of the above ancient landmark.

Y. O. M.

[1129]

WREXHAM CHURCH TOWER.

In *Notes and Queries* for April 24, one of your active correspondents, "A. R.," in answer to the Query "Do Towers rock to the wind?" replies—

"The Tower of WREXHAM Church is one of the proverbial 'seven wonders of Wales,' and for the reason, it is said, because it rocks in a high wind."

But does it really rock, "A. R."? And is it demonstrable that any large mass of masonry, such as Wrexham tower is, *could* be otherwise than rigid without "crumbling to its fall?" If so, what other local structures of the kind have the credit of this restless faculty?"

A. GLADSTONE.

Replies.

[1130]

WIGS AND PIGTAILS.

[No. 1106.—April 14, 1880.]

The Episcopal wig was first discarded by Bishop BLOMFIELD soon after his translation from CHESTER to LONDON, about fifty years ago. The following anecdote on this subject, communicated by Sir George Sinclair, will be found in *The Memoir of Bishop Blomfield* (London: 1864), pp. 72-73:—

"Soon after the accession of King William, Sir George happened to be at Fulham Place, just before paying a visit to His Majesty at Brighton. He asked the Bishop whether he could deliver any message from him to the King. The weather was extremely hot, and the Bishop jocularly replied, 'you may present my duty to his Majesty, and say that, this tropical season, I find my Episcopal wig a serious encumbrance; and that I hope he will not consider me guilty of a breach of Court etiquette, if I am induced to lay it aside.' Sir George repeated this message for the amusement of the King; who, however, took it up seriously, and replied, 'Tell the Bishop that he is not to wear a wig on my account; I dislike it as much as he does, and shall be glad to see the whole Bench wear their own hair.' The result was that Bishop BLOMFIELD took the hint; other bishops followed his example, and the Episcopal wig was gradually discontinued."

Bishop J. B. SUMNER is usually, I think, portrayed wearing the wig; so Bishop GRAHAM would be the first Bishop of CHESTER who dispensed with it.

There is a full and interesting account of the customs as to Judges' wigs in Jeaffreson's *Book about Lawyers*, Vol. i, p. 355 *et seq.*

Gatley.

P. M. HERFORD.

[1131] GUILDEN SUTTON.

On the derivation of this word, I am not well enough versed in philology to offer any remark; but I should like to correct your fair correspondent's suggestion as to OLIVER CROMWELL. I am gratified to see she looks with abhorrence on old Noll's intention of sacking the loyal hamlet; but, as a true Cavalier, she will be pleased to learn that, so far as history tells us, OLIVER never favored CHESTER with his presence, or, at all events, never got so far as GUILDEN SUTTON. I believe he was, according to some writers, at WREXHAM, and left his mark (so tradition says) on the wall of the church; but he thought rightly that loyal old CHESTER was too warm a place for one of his nature and political bias; and I feel sure that Cestrians were then, as they would be now, very thankful that he did not honour them with a visit on the terms marked out for GUILDEN SUTTON.

A ROYALIST.

MAY 12, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

May 12.—Females between 14 and 40 years old, prohibited, by the Mayor's Order, from keeping or serving in Taverns at Chester	1540
„ 13.—Great fall of Snow, on this and the following night, at Chester, and over the Welsh hills	1839
„ 14.—Immense fall of Snow at Chester and its vicinity	1809
„ 15.—Chester Volunteers marched to Warrington for 21 days' permanent duty.	1805
„ 16.—Richard Vaughan, Bishop of Bangor, translated to Chester	1597
„ 17.—Sir Stapleton Cotton, bart., created Baron Combermere of Combermere...	1814
„ 18.—The Ashton Light Horse, Wigan Rifle Corps, and St. Helens Volunteers came to Chester on permanent duty..	1804

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1132] GIRL TAVERN-KEEPERS AT CHESTER.

Unless old Chester has been very much belied by its own mediæval chroniclers, the tavern-keepers of the Tudor period were, numbers of them, not the most moral or law-abiding of the citizens. Permissive Bills, Local Option, and Good Templarism were, as cures for this social evil, unknown to those times; but, as will be seen by the following Order of Assembly, the local magistracy of Chester occasionally took the bull by the horns, and did its little best to scotch the serpent of disorder. We find it was set down in the Book of Assembly—

“In the tyme of HENRY GRE, Being mayre of this Citie, the xij day of May in ye xxxij yere of King Henry the eyghte,—

Who shall kepe Ale House.

WHERE as all the tau'nes and alehowses of this Citie haue and be vsed to be kept by yong women, other wyse than is vsed in any other places of this relme, wherof all straungers Resorting hether greatly maruill and thinke it an vnconuenient vse, wherby not onely grete Slaunder and dishonest Report of this Citie hath and doth Runne A brode; in Avojdying wherof, and allso to exchew as well other suche grete occasions & p'uoocac'ons of wantonnys, braules, frays, & other inconuenyents, as therby doth and may ensu dalye Amongst youthe & Light desposid p'sons, as allso damag's vnto ther mast'rs, & ou'n's of the tau'ns and ale houses,

It is ordred by the Said mayre and his Brethern, w't the comon counsell of the said citie, in ye Assimble houlden the daye and yere Aboue said, that after the x'th day of this next monyth of June next coming, there shall no Tauarns nor Alehowses be kept w'tin the said Citie by eny woman being betwene xiiij and xl yeres of Age, vnder paynes of xls. to be forfyted By en'y man or woman That taykyth or Kepyth eny s'u'nts contrary &c.”

It will be seen from the date just given that it was exactly 340 years ago this very day that the above stringent Order was passed in the mayoralty of that fierce and earnest Reformer of all local abuses, the sturdy HENRY GRE.

EDITOR.

[1133] A CHESTER ANTIQUARY IN TROUBLE.

(Continued from No. 1123.)

I bring to-day to its completion the lengthy evidence, submitted to the Commissioners for Sequestrations by the second RANDLE HOLME, why the estate of his late father, the first Randle, should be free from the necessity to compound, by reason of the charge of Delinquency aforesaid brought against him.

"The said MATHEW ELLYS further deposeth, he hath seene a Deed of Feofment shewed him upon his Examination, endorsed by the Com'ission'rs for Sequestrations in the County of Chester, dated the first of October, 1625; wherein, amongst others, this Deponent was one of the Feoffees of Trust for the said Land there Estatic on the Petitioner by his father, to the use onely of RANDLE HOLME, deceased, for Term of life; the Reverso'n to his sonne the Petitioner, and part thereof to his wife KATHERINE, sister to this Deponent, and the whole to the Heirs of their two Bodies; and deposeth, he saw the same sealed and delivered for the intent aforesaid, and that the Orriginal Deed of Settlement is, as he hath heard, and is acknowledged to be, in the hands of Mrs. Holme, widdow of the said Mr. Holme, deceased; and the Deed shewed him at the tyme of his Deposic'on is a true Counterpart thereof, to which this Deponent as a Feoffee put his hand and seale, about the tyme the same beares date, and the Orriginal thereof was then also sealed and executed. And deposeth, he believeth that the personall Estate of the said RANDLE HOLME, deceased, in the late Warrs was much lessened, and, as he hath heard, was too little to discharge his Debts and funerall charges. And further deposeth, that the Petitioner hath not any Estate by discent, but such Lands as is mencioned in the said Deed of settlement, and a House in Bridgestreet which came to him by virtue of a Deed in tail made by his Grandfather, THOMAS HOLME; which was showed unto this Deponent upon his Examination, endorsed by the Com'ission'rs for sequestrations in the Countie of Chester, which this Deponent conceives is a reall Deed.

The said THOMAS BROWNE further deposeth, that he hath heard the said RANDLE HOLME his personall Estate fell short to discharge his funerall expenses and debts by much. And deposeth that he hath long since seene a Deed of Intaile, which the said Randle Holme deceased did, in this Deponent's hearing, acknowledged was by him made and executed at or about the tyme the same beares date, to wit at his sonnes the Petition's marriage, for settling of his Estate; a Counterpart of which Deed was shewed unto this Deponent upon his Examination, and is endorsed by the Com'ission'rs for Sequestrations for the County of Chester, and beares date the first day of October, 1625; and this Deponent doth verely beleive that the same was sealed and executed, for that this Deponents father, deceased, was a Feoffee in the same; and he, this Deponent, is acquainted with his hand writing, and doth verely [believe] the name MATHEW BROWNE, subscribed as a party to the said Counterpart of the said Deed, was the hand writing of this Deponents said Father; And that the said Counterpart was by him sealed, which this Deponent conceives would not have bin done, unless the Orriginal thereof had bin first executed by the said RANDLE HOLME deceased; and this Deponent hath also seen another Deed of intail of, for, and concerning one Messuage with the Appurtenances in the Bridgestreet of the said Cittie of Chester,

purporting to be made by THOMAS HOLME, Grandfather of the Petitioner; which Deed was also shewed to this Deponent upon his Examinao'n, and is endorsed by the said Com'ission'rs, and beares date the 3rd day of November, in the fifth yeare of the Reigne of King James; and this Deponent doth verely beleive that the same Deed was really made and executed, for that the Limitations and Remainders therein have bin pursued; for this Deponent knoweth that RALPH HOLME therein named, elder Brother to the said RANDLE HOLME deceased, held and enjoyed the same during his life; and after his life, albeit the said Ralph had daughters living, yet did the same Messuage, for want of Issue, Remaine and come to the said RANDALL HOLME deceased; who was desired by his said brother Ralph, a little before his death, to make a Lease thereof to his two daughters, under the yearly rent of 4 li. during their lives; but they did both of them say and acknowledge the said Lease could not be good, in case the said RANDLE HOLME, deceased, should dye, unless the Petitioner Randle should Joyne with him; and thereupon it was concluded, and this Deponent made and writ the said Lease of the Messuage, wherein the Petitioner Randle did Joyne with his said father as Lessor; and this Deponent doth verely beleive that the Petitioner RANDLE HOLME hath noe Rents or Lands at all by discent from his said father, nor hath he any Lands of his Fathers, but what is mencioned in the said two severall Deeds shewed unto him.

THOMAS TAYLOR deposeth that he doth know THOMAS HOLME, father of the said Randle Holme deceased, dyed possessed of the said House in Bridgestreet in the Interrogatory mencioned; and after, it fell by virtue of a Deed of Intaile, made by the said Thomas, to RALPH HOLME, one of his sonnes, who possesit it during his life; and he dying without Issue male, it fell to RANDLE HOLME, Alderman, deceased, another sonne of the said Thomas; and at his death to RANDLE HOLME, his sonne the Petitioner, now living, who with his father Joyned to make a Lease thereof to two of the said RALPH HOLMES his daughters for their lives; the which Orriginal Deed of Intaile aforesaid was shewed this Deponent upon his Examinao'n, which he beleives is the same made by the aforesaid THOMAS HOLME, father of the said Randle Holme deceased, and Grandfather to the Petitioner.

The said RICHARD LEICESTER further deposeth that he this Deponent did know THOMAS HOLME, the Petitioners Grandfather, for to live in a House of his owne in Bridg-street, and dyed there; and after his death (hath heard) by virtue of an Intaile on the heirs male, RANDLE HOLME Alderman, deceased brother to the said Ralph, possessed the same to his death, and now the Petitioner his sonne possesseth the same, by virtue of the said Intaile.

The Petitioner deposeth, that the Inventory of all the goods and personall Estate of RANDLE HOLME deceased, his this Deponents late father, did upon the apprisement thereof onely amount to the sum of 85¹/₄ li. 11s. 0¹/₂d. or thereabouts; and doth fall

short to pay the funerall expences and debts of the said decedent, which doe amount to 257 li. or thereabouts. And this Deponent also deposeth that he hath noe land or Estate at all by descent from his said father, but what was long since setled upon him by virtue of severall Deeds p'duced before, and endorsed by, the Com'issioners for Sequestrations in the Countie of Chester.

The certificates of Mr. Bayly and Mr. Auditor Browne are produced, but I find nothing more to be added; save that Mr. Browne certefyes that He doth not find by any Return from the County of Chester that any Randall Holme is, or hath bin, under Sequestration, the last Returne thence being an Accompt exhibited the 9th March, 1654.

So it is submitted to your consideration and Judgement, whether the said Petition to compound was preferred by the privy and with the consent of the said RANDLE HOLME deceased, or not? Whether any fine ought to Remaine charged vpon him, or not? And, admitting a fine, ought [it] to continue as for an Estate in fee, or ought to be reduced, and set as for an Estate for life onely.

18 Octob : 1655.

PETER BREKETON."

There still remain a few Papers and Schedules filed with the Depositions above-named, which will, in a future article, fully and fully bring this interesting local Enquiry to an end.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1134] KING EDGAR AT CHESTER.

Some friend has forwarded to us the text of an article which recently appeared in the pages of *The Antiquary*. In this article the writer consigns to the limbo of monkish fable the story that EDGAR received at CHESTER the homage of six or eight kings and princes, who acknowledged his sovereignty by rowing him on the DEE to the newly-built minster of St. John's.

A pestilent heresy like this cannot be allowed to go unchallenged: so with a view to arousing the ancient spirit of 'Cheshire, chief of men,' in defence of a leading land-mark in our local history, we will divide the article in twain, giving the latter section in next week's SHEAF. The author entitles it "LEGEND OR HISTORY," and this is what he says:—

DR. LINGARD, and very many other historians, aver that once upon a time a most interesting spectacle was witnessed on the DEE at CHESTER—the appearance of no less than nine kings in one boat. The steersman was EDGAR of England, and the eight oarsmen were the monarchs who held sway over almost the whole of the Celtic inhabitants of the British Isles. What a day that must have been at CHESTER when this most interesting and signifi-

cant event took place! The river's mouth must have been thronged with vessels. There must have lain at anchor the ships of the Saxon monarch who had navigated the whole of the seas encompassing Great Britain. There, too, must have been anchored the vessels that brought to CHESTER the kings of Cambria and of Scotland, "that prince of pirates, Maccus" (what fierce-looking and broad-chested fellows they must have been! but what must he have been himself?), not to mention the small craft of the sight-seers. It certainly was in the opinion of the inhabitants, and of the lookers on, a day of days—a day from which to chronicle all subsequent events as long as their lives lasted. But what must have been the happy and proud thoughts that tenanted the breasts of the Saxon king and the Saxon premier, DUNSTAN of Canterbury (if he were present), as the one steered "to the admiration of many," and the other officiated in the monastery of John the Baptist; to the one it was a regal, to the other an ecclesiastical, triumph.

Such a train of thoughts as the above would probably enter the mind of the readers of Dr. Lingard's account of this, to him, and to many others, historical fact.

It is almost a pity to try to dispel the mists that surround this interesting legend—for legend it must be pronounced to be—and so disbelieve the magnificent effects of EDGAR's declaration to his nobles, in the words that "now at last all his successors might boast that they were kings of England, since he had enjoyed a procession of such honour and triumph in the obedience of so many kings." (a)

Had this procession actually taken place, the chronicles would, doubtless, have agreed upon the date of its occurrence, the number of tributary kings, the town near which and the river upon which it took place; they would, moreover, have coincided as to the names of the performers. But there is no unanimity amongst them in these particulars. There are also other facts and points which tend to throw doubt upon the story of KING EDGAR and his contemporary princes at CHESTER.

Florence of Worcester (b) says that the reputed occurrence took place in 973; *Matthew of Westminster* says in 974; *William of Malmesbury* (c) does not give the date; the *Saxon Chronicle* (d) says EDGAR was at CHESTER in 972; *Henry of Huntingdon* (e) says he was there in 970.

Florence of Worcester, *Matthew of Westminster*, and *William of Malmesbury*, say there were eight tributary kings at CHESTER; but the *Saxon Chronicle* and *Henry of Huntingdon* give six as the number.

(a) *Matthew of Westminster*; he wrote his chronicle in the 13th and 14th centuries.

(b) He wrote in the 11th and 12th centuries.

(c) His chronicle was written in the 12th century.

(d) We have evidence to conclude that facts were recorded in its pages contemporaneous with their occurrence; hence the great reliance placed upon its veracity.

(e) Written in first part of 12th century.

In the *Brut y Tywysogion* (Chronicle of the Princes) we read that in the year 971 "Edgar, King of the Saxons, collected a very great fleet at Caerleon upon Usk." It gives no information about his visit to CHESTER, and the procession upon the waters of the DEE: it simply states that Edgar collected a very great fleet, and that that fleet lay at anchor before Caerleon, a town in Monmouthshire, situated on the river Usk.

All that the earliest authorities state is that EDGAR held a Court at CHESTER, and that he there received the homage of the kings. *Henry of Huntingdon* says six subordinate kings pledged him their fealty there; but he does not give their names, nor does he say a word about the triumphant procession by water. The *Saxon Chronicle* is equally silent on these two vital points. Nor does Humphrey Lloyd, in his *Historie of Cambria*, allude to this matter.

The names given by the monkish chroniclers do not correspond with the names of the Welsh kings who were contemporary with Edgar up to the year 974, except that of Howel, given by *Matthew of Westminster*; and it will be borne in mind that 974 is the year given by this chronicler as the one in which EDGAR's triumph took place at CHESTER. This is a curious coincidence.

The Welsh princes contemporary with Edgar were Meyrio, Ieuf, Iago, Idwal, Rhodri, Ionaual, Hywel, Cadwallawn, Cystenyn, Seisyllt, Llewelyn, Cynan, Owain, Einion, Meredydd, Edwyn.

William of Malmesbury names the so-called tributary kings as follows:—"Kinad, King of the Scots; Malcolm, of the Cambrians; that prince of Pirates, Maccus; all the Welsh Kings, whose names were Dufnal, Giferth, Huwal (perhaps Hywel, i.e., Howel, is here meant), Jacob (Iago?), Judethil."

Matthew of Westminster says they were:—"Kined, King of the Scots; Malcolm, King of Cumberland; Mao, King of Man, and many other Islands; Dufnal, King of Demetia; Siferth and Howel, Kings of Wales; James (Jacob or Iago?) King of Galwallia; and Jukil, King of Westmaria."

Florence of Westminster says they were:—"Kenneth, King of the Scots; Malcolm, King of the Cumbrians; Maccus, King of several isles; and five others, named Dufnal, Siferth, Huwal (Howel?), Jacob, and Juchil."

Rhyl.

T. MORGAN OWEN.

EDITOR.

[1135]

SNOW IN MAY.

EDWARD BAILEY, son of one and nephew of another Organist of Chester Cathedral, was himself brought up to that profession, and was for many years Organist first of St. John's and afterwards of St. Mary's Churches, in this city. The Baileys were an observant family, and were strongly tinged with the antiquarian faculty. I find Edward Bailey, in his private Pocket Book for the year 1839, recording as follows:—

"On May the 13th, 1839, a fall of snow between 10 and 11 that night; the previous weather dry, but rather cold for the season; stormy wind, N.E. Again on the following night at the same time; wind N., rate moderate. Also the morning of the 15th at 10, another fall of snow; wind N., moderate; the Welsh hills from Ruabon to Ruthin covered with snow all day after. The Winter may truly be said to be only just now ended, altho' an open one; snow having fallen on the 13th Oct., 1838, and again finishing with it, as recorded above, making a period of seven months' continuance.

N.B. Thirty years ago, we had a similar visitation, on the 14th of May, 1809."

T. HUGHES.

Queries.

[1136]

CHURCH ALE.

What was the nature of the custom one often meets with in local history and documents under the denomination of a CHURCH ALE? It would seem to have in the end degenerated into a nuisance, for I have seen very hard words used in reference to it in the course of my antiquarian reading, which has extended now over little less than half a century.

SENEX.

[1137]

QUILLET.

What is the meaning of a QUILLET, as applied to land? There is a house on the Liverpool Road, Chester, called *The Quillets*, named, I should hope, for some good local reason.

L. L.

[1138]

BASINGWERK ABBEY.

What manors or other lands did this religious house own within the county of Chester, and who are the proprietors of them in the present day?

CAMERO-BRITON.

[1139]

SHOLLEGH.

I cannot find this place on any of my Cheshire maps; and yet I am certain there was such a locality in mediæval days. I turn in my desperation to THE SHEAF, which I have often already found to be a safe port in a storm. Where is SHOLLEGH?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

Replies.

[1140]

CHESHIRE SALT MINES.

[No. 73.—June 5, 1878.]

I had half expected that, long ere this, some local geologist would have attempted an answer to my ques-

tion as to the limits, geographically, of the CHESHIRE SALT field,—as to whether those limits extend beyond the county,—and whether they were worked scientifically at any very early period? My hopes from others having been nipped in the bud, I may now give the slender results of my own reading upon the point.

Writing of the keuper marls overlying the brown and white sandstone of Shropshire and Cheshire, Mr. C. J. COOPER, in a Paper read before the *Severn Valley Naturalists' Field Club* in 1867, says:—

"It is at the base of and in those marls that the salt beds and gypsum beds in Cheshire lie. * * * The mines of CHESHIRE and Worcestershire are said to yield annually on an average 170,000 tons of prepared and purified salt. The rock salt of Cheshire lies in two beds, separated by about 30 feet of coloured marls: the upper bed is 75 feet in thickness, and the lower one upwards of 100 feet. The horizontal extent of these salt-beds in Cheshire, and stretching into Lancashire, is not exactly known; but the area of the saliferous marls and sandstones throughout England is said by Sir Charles Lyell to exceed 150 miles in diameter. The mode of formation of such huge masses of rock salt is one of the problems of geology,—no satisfactory explanation has been given. * * * The incrustations of salt forming on the shores of the Dead Sea, the Caspian, and other inland salt lakes, are perfect films compared with the salt-beds of Cheshire; the purity and solidity of whose mass throughout are as wonderful as its enormous thickness and extent."

Then, touching the working of the salt by the ancients, but especially by the Romans, that question seems to be settled by the discovery of the Roman Salt-pans in the bed of the river Weaver, near Northwich. The letters and ornamentation of these curious leaden relics of imperial industry have been recognised on all hands as Roman; and we know from the Domesday Book that the salt trade was at the Conquest the staple of the three great Wiches of Cheshire,—Northwich, Middlewich, and Nantwich.

Is it known when, and where, the Cheshire "rock"-salt was first discovered? S. E. L.

[1141] ANCIENT LIBRARY AT CHESTER.

[Nos. 869, 894, 908.—Oct. 23, Nov. 5, Dec. 31.]

"T. C. H.," writing of Bishop Fisher's splendid Library as having been confiscated by the Lord Cromwell, and given to MORYSON PLANCKNEY of Chester at the Reformation, is I have no doubt correct in his quotation as to Planckney's christian name. It is worthy of mention, however, that there was resident at the time in Chester, and in some way officially connected with its newly-organized Cathedral, an EDWARD PLANCKNEY, perhaps a brother of Thomas Cromwell's literary friend and protégé, MORYSON PLANCKNEY.

Among the *Exchequer Documents*, temp. Charles I., transferred to the Public Record Office, I find note of

a Commission opened at Chester, 16 June, 1630, the Interrogatory and Depositions being taken on the 31st August, on the plaint of Sir Robert Heath, Kt., Attorney General. The defendants were Edward Whitby and Alice his wife, Francis Gamul, Thomas Urmes & John Annyn; and the question for the jury was to survey and determine if any, and what alterations had been made in the Manor of HANDBRIDGE, which had been leased by JOHN BIRD, the first Bishop of Chester, to EDWARD PLANCKNEY, gentleman, in the reign of Henry VIII.

I should be quite prepared to learn that these apparently distinct Planckneys were really one and the same person. G. T.

MAY 19, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

May 20.—Sir William Brereton's forces retreated from before Chester.....	1645
" 21.—Chester Volunteers reviewed at Warrington by Prince William of Gloucester	1805
" 22.—Edward W. Antrobus, of Antrobus, esquire, created a Baronet.....	1815
" 24.—Railway bridge over the Dee, at Chester, fell during the passage of a train.....	1847
" 25.—The Oswestry Rangers Volunteers on duty at Chester Castle.....	1805

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1142] GRANDFATHER ARTHUR SANDFORD.

From the fine collection of 17th century Letters preserved at SANDFORD, co. Salop, I select for to-day the following alternately grave and gay epistle, well worth a more than casual reading.

ARTHUR SANDFORD the writer, the royalist father of three noted Cavalier officers, lived to be an old man; and his son and heir FRANCIS had, as a consequence, to wait a long time for his inheritance of SANDFORD. He, Francis, was at the date (omitted in the original) of this Letter desirous to obtain a lease of the Lordship of PREES; with a view, I fancy, to returning to his native county from Ireland, and settling near home. His old father however fails, in this proposal, to see value for his money, and so declines to act.

The postscript shows, too, that there was a spirit of unrest in the sons which the father did not quite relish; nay, he expresses his almost belief that, between them,

he and his spouse, if he were not sufficiently wary, would go the wall. But he shall tell his own story:—

"Francis, hoping of your good health, your wyfe and children, i receavd only one letter from you sethens your going into Ierland; whear in you wished mee to lowke after the taking of the lease of PREEs lord sheap, and i had conferanse with S'r ROLAND COTTON, wheather hee intended to deale for it: hee answered mee that hee had refused it, and that the beashop had set souch a rate on it that he would not meddell w'th it, and that the lowest rate hee could haue of it was towe thousand markes. i am sure it is not worth one thousand marke, and I verily thinke that hee shall neaver get one thousand, for i hear that hee hath geven it to his sester's douter for her preferment: ther is noe lowkinge after it on this rate.

i vnderstowed by your leter that your hopes [hope] wear not comen to you. i fear that your oosen drias [Dryhurst] is a slepy [P alippery] knaive, and hath oosened you of them, as hee hath done to a neabour of mine of his Sadell: hee being a honing with mee, borst his sadell and borrowed a nother, and promised to send it backe from Chester, but noe souch matter as yet performed. I send [P sent] your hopes as you gave deraction, to Mr. edwardes to CHESTER, and i peched [P marked in pitch] the letter S on the bage in a number of places; but this companion Drias, att his going for Ierland, tould mee that att his being att CHESTER hee had taken your hopes from edwardes and had imbarcked them w'th his comodities. i being a letell sospisios of him, bad him deliver them safe; and now i verily thinke that hee ded not knowe of any hopes, tell hee hard att SANDFORD i had sent hopes for you to CHESTER.

Robin presenteth his duty to you and his mother, and is aee powfull w'th his grandfather that hee hath sent you the best hound i have for the killing of a foxe: shee is the best that ever came from mee to Carnowe,—throwe her of to a fox her selfe, haroon to her, and, for my wager, shee ether kelleth him, or maketh hime rone vnder ground. i could haue wished you a letter of welpes that are nowe in her Sesters belly, and to haue sent sent her over by Cempoll, and you to haue returned her bake; but nowe shee shall stay tell ther be a brege made, and then roben and my selfe will come ouer. hee is nowe a man att armes; his granmother hath bouth him a sowrd, and hee hath a great desier to fith a combat w'th a rebell or a thefe, all wayes provided that i stand by to see him poulder his carcase.

And this, desiering god to blesse you, and your wyfe and children, i rest your loing father

ARTHUR SANDFORD.

verts.

Francis, I have sent you draw'ths that are comen from your brother Samuell for you and my selfe to Seale: for my one part I am troubled by your father in laws, and lowke for noe other att [his] handes, therfor will i forbear to medell in the buseneses any farther. Allsoe in this bouke that is sent to you I most connot to free all estates done by

myselfe: you knowe that ther is a lease Sealed to you of the farme in Sandford, and it is in the Chambers keping; and howe i should free my self from my one aote, it is more then i can dowe. i Knowe that your brother hath relived your wantes w'th money, and hath geuen you more then the lease of the thinge is worth, and itt wear fet hee had that estat that you premised him: itt was that your wyfe should acknowledge a fine for the setting of his lease, and, as i thinke, hee hath a bond of you for that porpose; for it douth not a letell troubell me, and when croses haue layd mee on my bake in this world, i hope of hapynes in the world to come, and soe I end.

I haue not yet Sealed the bouke, for that there is a clawee in it, that neather myselfe or you should haue pour to lease it; and your mother and my selfe are to acknowleg a fine for forther asurance, and by this bouke he may comand vs to dowe it att London: wee are not abell to travell out of Shropshir, and soe it shall [be] lemeted if ever I Seale it.

To his sone francis

Sandford, in Ierland

att carnowe, geue thees."

The "oosen Drias" referred to in the second paragraph seems to have been rather weak in his moral perceptions: but it is to be hoped that the Sadell ultimately found its way to the rightful owner; though the hops would seem to have vanished beyond recall through the "oosening" of that "slepy Knaive."

The old man was evidently a keen sportsman and loved his faithful dogs: but when the petted grandson, Master Roben, claimed the favourite hound as a gift to his absent father, the indulgent grandsire was unable to say him nay. The Letter is a characteristic one, now lively, now moody and severe; making us regret that many another specimen of his writing power has not been preserved.

T. HUGHES.

[1143] MILTON AND HIS CHESHIRE WIFE.

(Concluded from No. 1117.)

Another link in the family chain is supplied by the Will of NICHOLAS GOULDSMYTH, of Nantwich, mercer, son of the elder RANDLE with whom I commenced my string of evidence.

As this Will, proved at Chester 23rd January, 1617, has been given by me elsewhere, I will include here merely a few quotations from it necessary to complete the story. He mentions his "daughter MABELL GOULDSMYTH," and his "daughter Margery, wife to THOMAS PAGET, clerk." This Thomas Paget was father to NATHAN PAGET, M.D., the personal friend of MILTON; to whom indeed he owed his introduction to Elizabeth Mynshull, who soon afterwards became his third wife and ultimately his widow. NICHOLAS GOULDSMYTH names also his "daughter Ellen, wife to RICHARD MYNSHULL"; his "grand-daughter Mabel Mynshull, and his grandson Randall Mynshull," children of Richard and Ellen.

Here then is where we are landed. The RANDLE MYNSHULL just named was father of the Poet's widow, as the legal evidence produced twenty-seven years ago by Mr. J. FITCHETT MARSH clearly proved. In the registers of ACTON, near Nantwich, I have found his marriage, as follows:—

"Randle Minshull and Anne Boote married February 8, 1633,"

and in the WISTASTON registers, other and older children having been recorded in the meantime,—

"Elizabeth, the daughter of Rondulph Mynshull, baptized the 30th day of December, 1638."

This Rondulph is shown in his grandfather Nicholas Gouldsmyth's Will (as above) to be the son of RICHARD and ELLEN MYNSHULL, who are therein declared to be his children.

Then comes the Will of THOMAS MYNSHULL, of Wistaston, father of the last named RICHARD, whom he appoints an Executor. This interesting and previously inedited Will shews that he had married DOBOTHY GOULDSMYTH, the young widow of RANDALL GOULDSMYTH, of Willaston; whose children he remembers, each with a small legacy. He forges the chain still closer, by referring to his grandchild Mabel Mynshull, who, as I have shown, was aunt to Mrs. MILTON. His widow, DOBOTHY MYNSHULL, is said to have been a Gouldsmyth even before her first marriage, but this I cannot prove.

A curious Letter remaining in Harl: MS., 2089, fo. 163-4, written by her son Richard Mynshull, to his son, Alderman RICHARD MYNSHULL, of CHESTER, who was own uncle to MILTON's widow, will complete the family tree, in the person of John Mynshull, the writer's great-grandfather.

"Deare and Loving Senne, My love & best respects to you & to my daughter tendered with trust of yo'r health. I have receaved Mr. ALDERMAN HOLMES his letter, together w'th yo'rs, wherein I understand that you desire to know what I can say concerning our coming out of Minshull house. I can say but little, but what I have heard from my Grandfather Randall Minshull his owne mouth, wich was this; he tould me his father came out of Minshull house, and that his name was JOHN MINSHULL,—he married Robert Couper his younger daughter, who then lived at Wistaston house. This Couper had no sonne, but two daughters, and he devided his lande equallie betweene them. Now John Minshull, my great Grandfather, did builde upon that moitie and halfe parte w'ch did falle to him; the w'ch he himself, Randall Minshull my Grandfather, and Thomas Minshull my father, and I Richard Minshull, have enjoyed and doe enjoy the same unto this p'sent. This is all I can say, soe I com'itt you to God and ever Rest

Your loving Father,

RIC: MINSHULL.

May 3, 1656."

This is conclusive; and disposes for ever of the claim that Mrs. MILTON was either a daughter of Sir Edward Minshull of Stoke, or was even a Minshull of Stoke at all! A pedigree of six descents from the Poet's widow has thus been traced direct back into the parent stock of MINSHULL of Minshull, and there the long vexed question may be safely left to rest.

The still more interesting pedigree of MILTON himself has not been satisfactorily dealt with beyond his father, John Milton the London scrivener. I am inclined to believe that the author of *Paradise Lost* will ultimately prove to have been a Cheshire Man also. I mean, of course, by right of descent.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1144] PAPAL DISPENSATION TO MARRY.

Among the MS. Papers of the Rev. THOMAS CRANE, a local antiquary of half a century and more ago, was preserved the following abstract of a curious document to which he had access in July, 1802. He describes it as having been issued out of the

"Penitentiary Court at Rome, 3 August, in the seventh year of the pontificate of Pope Leo the 10th, 1520.

Dispensation of that date by the Lord Leonardus, Cardinal Priest of St. Peter ad Vincula, directed to the Venerable Father in Christ, by the Grace of God, the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, or his Vicar or Official General in Spirituals, granted in favour of JOHN LECHE, a layman, and MARGERY STARKNY, of kin in the third degree of consanguinity, to enable the said John and Margery to intermarry, notwithstanding their consanguinity."

Mr. CRANE proceeds to say that, attached to the deed in an oval tin-plated box, was the seal of the Roman Court—a Virgin and Bambino, with the legend, SIGILLVM. OFFICII. SACRE. PENITENCIARIE. AYLICE. "The seal of office of the holy Penitentiary Court." Mr. CRANE presumes the parties desiring to marry were third cousins; but I find no trace at all of the marriage in any of the LECHE or STARKNY pedigrees in Ormerod's *Cheshire*.

Great Saughall.

W. H. BRADFORD.

[1145] TWO MEMBERS FOR MIDDLEWICH.

Wonderful statements occasionally find their way into print. Here is one which appeared in 1754, in a work most likely regarded at the time as a reliable authority. The volume is entitled "*Lingua Britannica Reformata, or a new Universal English Dictionary*, by Benjamin Martin. 2nd Edition. London, Printed for C. Hitch and others at Bath, and B. Collins at Salisbury, 1754. Price 6s."

Under the head of MIDDLEWICH, I find the following somewhat startling information:—

"MIDDLEWICH, a large Town in Cheshire. It is an Ancient Borough, sends two Members to Parliament, and is governed by Burgesses. Its Church is very large."

Where Mr. Benjamin Martin, the compiler, obtained his facts does not appear; but probably the oldest inhabitant of Middlewich had no conception that, at so recent a date as 1754, the town could have been seriously described as "an Ancient Borough," and as sending "two Members" to represent its interests in Parliament!

Sandbach.

J. T.

[1146] HIGH SHERIFF'S PROCESSION.

In a piece of poetry written by JOHN VENABLES, entitled "Farewell to Chester," which commences—

"Farewell, Chester! ancient place, adieu!
Within whose walls my earliest breath I drew,
And up from infancy to manhood grew,—
My venerable, native home, again I cry—adieu!"

occurs a remembrance of this now obsolete procession from the boundary of the county at SALTNEY:—

"Nor will remembrance fail to represent
The many joyous hours my childhood spent,
In viewing what was then a great event—
The JUDGE'S ENTRY, when Assizes came,
Noted by bells, with trumpets' shrill acclaim;
Then seen was many a warlike javelin man,
At once to ornament and lead the van;
Each civil warrior firm upon his steed,
To charge the enemy in time of need;
Choice men were they as Bony's cuirassiers!
The Chargers various,—some whose tails and ears
Had fall'n in battle with the hostler's shears:
Some tits were short, some there were full tall,
Some that by chance upon their knees would fall;
This had an eye, and that had none at all!
Not to forget the running footman bland,
With orange frock and white official wand,
And bag-wigg'd coachmen, footmen too beside,
That, trimm'd with lace, on Sheriff's coach did rid,
With all the circumstance of pomp and pride."

Ledsham.

E. M.

[1147] THINGS I REMEMBER.

No. 18.

THE TARVIN DOG-WHIPPER.

When I was quite a boy, now a long way more than a half century ago, I used to visit some relatives of mine at TARVIN; and I recollect perfectly well a very curious and somewhat ludicrous custom that prevailed at the Sunday services of that ancient village church.

During the sermon a tall old man used to march slowly through the aisles, intent on discovering and arousing sleepy members of the congregation, of whom, from some cause or other, there were evidently not a few. Watching him move stealthily along

with measured tread, armed with a long pole or wand having a knob at the top, I remember how he used to take my boyish attention from the text and the preacher, as every now and again he would give the drowsy labourer, or the sleeping schoolboy, a sudden but gentle tap. When not so occupied, this useful functionary had a separate seat like the old-fashioned watchman's box, in a commanding position near the door. I remember being told, too, that he had a small gratuity, provided by a legacy, for performing this odd, yet not altogether useless duty.

Some of your readers may be able to give us further information as to this curious and almost comical custom, and say whether it obtained in any other part of the county. It would be especially interesting to know if the practice still survives in any of the village churches of Cheshire.

Newton.

T. D.-C.

Queries.

[1148] THE LORDS OF MOLD.

Can any of your readers give the origin, history, and present title of "the Lords of Mold," and explain who they now are, and of what their rights consist?

Curzon Park.

HENRY TAYLOR.

[1149] HAWARDEN PARISH BOUNDS.

Is there any published account of the Metes and Bounds of this important and wide-spread Parish; and, if the reply be in the affirmative, where shall I turn for the particulars? How often do the Parishioners of HAWARDEN officially perambulate their ancient boundaries? There ought to be a law to compel this to be done for every parish in England at least once every ten years.

A WOODMAN.

[1150] FAIRDON AND HOLT.

What is the derivation of the names of these two border towns of Cheshire and Denbighshire? When are they first met with, under those names, in historic story?

CAMBRO-BRITON.

[1151] CHESTER CHANTRIES.

The *Chetham Society* has published an account of the LANCASHIRE CHANTRIES, as they existed at the Reformation; but I fear that, as yet, no one has done the like for those of CHESHIRE. Will you try to elicit, as a start, some information as to the Chantries once existing within the ABBEY OF ST. WEEBURGH, at CHESTER.

WICH MALBANK.

[1152] THE CLOWES FAMILY, ARTISTS.

Old CLOWES, his Son, and Grandson, were a family of Artists, who made portraits of animals, especially race horses and dogs, the main subjects of their brush.

Many of old CLOWES' works were good specimens of art, and were valued then, as they are now, as faithful and not inartistic portraits.

He also painted the "Ferry House and Boat at Eccleston," with the surroundings; the only landscape I ever saw or heard of of his, except those added as back grounds to his portraits of animals. He and his son considered this his best work.

Neither his son nor grandson ever equalled him in the profession. The son was so egotistic of his own talents as an artist that the slightest criticism or hint of improvement roused his ire exceedingly. His grandson, again, was also so imbued with the same idea of the whole family's proficiency as artists, that any attempt by friends to suggest improvements, even in his prentice efforts, was hopeless; hence, both son and grandson made a very bare and precarious living by painting and selling wretched examples of art for little more than the value of the canvas on which the paintings were made.

Perhaps some of your readers may know, and would kindly inform me, the present location of the "Eccleston Ferry" painting? E. O.

[1153] THE WATERGATE, CHESTER.

Who was the architect who designed the present rather handsome Gate? Is anything known as to the style of its predecessor? It must have been an important structure in mediæval days, when the River Dee is said to have washed up to its very base. What evidence have we, though, that it ever did so?

H. S. A.

Replies.

[1154] HOLYWELL *versus* LATHOM SPA.

[Nos. 424, 449.—Dec. 18, 1878; Jan. 1, 1879.]

The following extract, under the year 1698, from *A Cavalier's Note-Book*, edited and just published by the Rev. T. E. Gibson, from the original MS. of WILLIAM BLUNDELL, of Crosby, co. Lancaster, Esq., an officer in the Royalist Army of 1642, refers to the newly-found 'Spa,' which in the 17th century was a threatening rival to ST. WINEFRED'S WELL at HOLYWELL:—

"Mineral waters or spaws are now abounding everywhere in the kingdom. We have one of these in the Earl of Derby's ground, near Lathom Park Lancashire. The want of convenient lodging makes it less frequented; and I had not mentioned it but that it hath done some notable cures, and one to my certain knowledge the greatest and the quickest that ever I knew to be done by any such water."

A WOODMAN.

[1155]

CHESTER GATE.

HOOLE HEATH.

[No. 1114.—April 21.]

This ancient Gate was situate on the north-eastern outskirts of the city, as appears by the following Return to an Inquisition upon which twelve Jurors (six being citizens of Chester and six yeomen of the county) were impelled, in the 18th year of King Edward III.

The duty of the Jurors was to find and declare the boundaries of HOOLE HEATH, at an early period one of the three Sanctuaries for criminals appointed for Cheshire. After "riding the boundaries," the Jurors say that by grant of the Earls of Chester, lawful men and others had right of refuge on HOLE HETH, for a year and a day; and that

"The comynalte of the citie of Chester of right, and of tyme out of mynde ought to have comen pastur vpon Hole Heth to theyr bests in all tyme of the yere; and say also that the meares and bondes of Hole Hethe do begyn from the yate called CHEST'r's YATE, nygh Flokersbroke; and so foloyng Flokersbroke vnto Wynaysich, and so foloyng Wynaysich nere a c'teyne place wher a grange of the p'sons of the church of Plemondestow sometyme beyng; and so foloyng nere a that Robert of Whitmore sometyme dyd breke; and so foloyng nere Houghahey ay'nt Pykton Dale vnte Saltesway, whych is the Kyng's Highway ner Chest'r, to lede the hoost of our sovreygn Lord the Kyng in tyme of warre vnto Shotwyk Ford; and so foloyng beyond Saltesway vnto Sasse Dicke, and so vnto the Town of Newton, and vnto the Yate of Rob'te the sonne of Cislis Newton, whych sometyme was called the Shepe Yate; for which yate the said Rob't gave money to the Kep'r of the Towne of Hole for the tyme beyng; and so foloyng from the said yate, by the old heys of Newton vnte Flokersbroke."—Ormerod's *Cheshire*, first ed., vol. ii., p. 440.

Can these boundaries be identified with any precision in the present day; and what compensation did the City of CHESTER receive for its rights on HOOLE HEATH, at the time that the Heath was enclosed?

G. T.

MAY 26, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- May 26.—Henry M. Mainwaring, of Over Peover, Esq., created a Baronet 1804
 „ 27.—Sandbach parishioners granted a Faculty to repair their Church..... 1745
 „ 28.—William Wilson, aged 70, a sailor, executed in Chester for arson committed at Tiverton, near Tarporley... 1814

May 29.—Charles II., 30th Royal Earl of Chester, born	1630
„ 30.—William Smith, 20th Dean of Chester, born at Worcester	1711
„ 31.—Katherine Brettergh, sister of John Bruen, of Stapleford, died	1601
June 1.—Thomas Newport, 17th Abbot of Chester, died at Sutton.....	1385

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1156] THE LEYCESTERS OF WORLESTON, POOL, AND CHESTER.

Having in my possession an original Letter of a Mayor of CHESTER which, explained by Church Registers at MALPAS, and in ST. MICHAEL'S, Chester, throws the most satisfactory light upon the succession to the above second branch of the LEYCESTERS of TOFT, I offer it to you as a possibly not unacceptable contribution to make up THE SHEAF.

There are several who claim descent from those Leycesters. To the Letter, to be printed next week, itself I propose to annex a commentary, in which I shall show the sequel to an early settlement of these Leycesters' property—a sequel foreshadowed by Sir PETER LEYCESTER himself two centuries ago. Nor do I think that the interest will be lessened by my subject leading me to make such statements as serve to correct a name in the printed pedigree of the Leycesters of Worleston (*Ormerod*, vol. iii., p. 358), and supply a gap in an existing WALTHALL monument in MALPAS Church (*ib.*, vol. ii., page 617).

Amongst the decisions of Lord Hardwicke, one—"Minshull v. Minshull"—settled a principle of great interest to the old Conveyancers in the construction of words in testaments creating Intails. It did not, of course, escape Mr. Fearn, and plays a conspicuous part in his always remarkable and once useful *Treatise on Contingent Remainders*. But it is not to the decision, but to the facts upon which it was founded and out of which it grew, that this Mayor's Letter refers. It could not refer to the decision, for before the question would arise the poor Mayor had to die!

The ultimate result of the Chancery suit was to scatter the landed heritage; but the investigation itself shows that the writer of this Letter was, through his grandmother, Elizabeth Leycester, a legal representative of a second house of the LEYCESTERS of TOFT, and through them of the ancient Cheshire family of Crews of Pulcroft. This descent, the possibility of which was suggested by Sir Peter Leycester from Lady Mary Delves having been when he wrote, 1666, both a widow and issueless, has never been so clearly brought out as

by this Letter; whilst every other essential of evidence is supplied by the earlier Church Registers at Malpas, by those in St. Michael's, Chester, and still more by the answer and schedule of Alexander Minshull in the above mentioned Chancery suit. For that Alexander is the party to whom the Mayor's Letter is addressed.

In the Documentary History left by Sir Peter Leycester of his family (*Antiquities*, p. 378) and more particularly in that part of it which relates to the branch which settled at Toft, we find written in the words of this distinguished antiquary (see *ORMEROD'S History of Cheshire*, by Helsby, 1st vol., page 504) as follows:—

"This Randle Leycester, second son (of Robert Leycester, son and heir of Rafe) married Isabel, daughter and co-heir of David Crue, of Pulcroft: from whom the Leycesters of Poole, in Nantwich Hundred, are descended, as appears by the evidences of that family. This Randle died Anno Dom. 1438, whose posterity continued here until Richard Leycester, late Mayor of Chester and Alderman of that city, gave all his lands in Poole, to Sir Henry Delves, of Dodington, Baronet, in marriage with Mary, his niece, daughter of Randle Leycester, his late brother. This Lady Mary Delves was second wife of Sir Henry, and was widow 1666, but had no issue by Sir Henry. But these lands are settled to descend to another Leycester sprung from that family after the death of the s'd Mary without issue."

I will close my communication to-day with the following Extract signed by RICHARD LEICESTER (of London and Chester) Harl. MS. 2180, f. 45 (certificates of deaths).

"Mrs. Jane Leicester dyed the last day of April, 1629, and was buried in St. Michael's Church, Chester.

She was daw'r to Will'm Stokes, of Chester, and married Will'm Leicester, of the city of Chester, Ald. and justice of the peace, by whom she hath issue:—

Richard Leicester, somewhere of the age of 44 years, or thereabouts at the time of his mother's death; he married to his first wife, Jane, da. to John Fitton, of Chester, Ald.: by whom he had issue, Thomas, his son and heir. The said Richard married to his 2d wife, Elix'h, da. to Peter Newell, of Ches.: by whom yet he hath no issue.

Randle Leicester, 2d son to the defunct, married da. to Vija Babington, of London, by whom he hath issue Will'm, Randle, Ann, Martha, Mary, Jane, and Elisabeth, all of whom died young but Mary.

William Leicester, third son to the defunct, dyed without issue.

Jane, eldest da. to defunct, ob. young.

Margaret, do., unmarried, 1629.

Mary, 3d da., married Hugh Capper, of Chester, by whom she hath issue.

Anne, 4th da., ob. young.

Elizabeth, youngest da., married Randle Minshull, of Hampton, and hath issue.

This certificate was taken at Chester upon 6 May, 1629, by Randle Holme, of the city of Chester, deputy for the office of arms, and testified under the hand of Mr. Richard Leicester, son and heir to the defunct.

RICHARD LEICESTER."

Stafford.

T. J. M.

Notes.

[1157] KING EDGAR AT CHESTER.

(Concluded from No. 1134.)

"From the *Iolo MSS.* we gather that EDGAR did attempt to persuade at least one Welsh chieftain to help to row him on the DEE. This potentate was Gwaethvoed, Lord of Cibr and Ceredigion (*f*). In reply to Edgar's summons, he said 'he could not row a barge; and if he could, that he would not do so, except to save a person's life, whether king or vassal.' When a second message begged for some sort of a reply to return to the king, 'Say to him,' said Gwaethvoed—

'Ofner na ofne angau.'

(Fear him who fears not death.)

It is not to be supposed that the kings of the three great divisions of Wales (Gwynedd, North Wales; Dehenbarth, greater part of South Wales; Powys, part of Central Wales and the Borders) would have been outdone by one of their subordinates in declining such an ignominious position as oarsman to King EDGAR.

There is another strong reason why even the statements of the monkish chroniclers concerning Edgar must be refused as independent testimony. He was completely in their hands: and so it will be found that his reign, as described by them, is scarcely anything more than a record of the doings of the monks; that an abbey was founded here, that such an abbot, bishop, or archbishop began to rule—

New temples crowned the hills at his command,
Heaped with rich gifts the sacred altars stand;
And hoary ministers owned his lib'ral hand. (*g*).

Like Henry VIII., he permitted nothing to stand between him and his lust; neither husband, nor vows of sanctity, nor the rights of hospitality, were any protection to those whom he fancied. And yet, notwithstanding his licentiousness, his cruelty, and the atrocity of his criminal laws, one monkish chronicler (*Florence of Worcester*) termed him the flower and glory of a race of kings; another (*William of Malmesbury*) affirmed that his sanctity broke the

neck of an abbot and cured a blind lunatic; and another (*Matthew of Westminster*) declared that he had exchanged his earthly kingdom for an eternal one. He was also likened unto Solomon, Romulus, Cyrus, Alexander, and Charlemagne! Wherefore? Because he was the ready tool of the king-maker of his age, the Wolsey of his time—DUNSTAN.

My last argument against the supposition that Welsh and other kings rowed EDGAR upon the DEE is of a conjectural character. What would their subjects think of such an ignoble exhibition? While the kings were at CHESTER, what became of their subjects at home? Who protected them? Had DUNSTAN inaugurated a year of jubilee and guaranteed peace and security to the dominions and subjects of the eight kings? I trow not. Indeed, I am persuaded that such a fair opportunity of advancing their own interests would not be neglected by their rivals; and in those days scarcely a Welsh prince sat securely on his throne. Treachery and murder, and not goodwill and harmony, distinguished those days. The ancestors of the heroes of the Rhondda and of Borkes Drift would not have obeyed a prince, who had submitted to the imperious mandate of the Saxon Cæsar, with the same tameness that a native captive followed the chariot of the Roman Cæsar. Why, the very spirit of Caractacus (Caradog) would have burst its bonds at such a debasing sight, and confronted such craven-hearted creatures as the Welsh princes are represented to be! But they were no cravens, but bold and brave men. Gwaethvoed's reply may aptly be put into the mouths of each one of them. Perhaps Howel (Hywel Ddrwg, Howel the Bad) was there from interested motives. A man who could imprison his father, blind one uncle, drive another into exile, and murder a cousin, would not hesitate to handle an oar to tickle the fancy of the vanity-struck monarch. Perhaps, too, other princes out of curiosity, or from some other motive, visited at CHESTER the king who never led an army, or won a battle, and whose days were passed in ravishment and penance. Such being the case, it was no difficult matter for certain of the chroniclers, out of gratitude for the benefits he conferred upon their order, that "he (Edgar) exhibited them (eight princes) on the River DEE in triumphant ceremony."

T. MORGAN OWEN.

Queries.

[1158] THE MANOR OF HANDBRIDGE.

I shall be glad if some one well acquainted with the metes and bounds of the Bishop's Manor of HANDBRIDGE, by Chester, would kindly describe them in THE SHEAF. I fancy that in the last century the limits were fairly definable by the properties held respectively by the Egerton and Grosvenor factions in

(*f*) I am informed that Viscountess Beaconsfield was traditionally a descendant from Gwaethvoed.

(*g*) Henry of Huntingdon.

that electioneering suburb; but that line of demarcation scarcely applies, I think, now, owing to more recent purchases by the dominant interest.

While on this question, I may as well ask what is the meaning of a Handbridge "cronk," as applied to certain residents in that locality?

Y. O. M.

[1159] COCKSHUT—COCKSHETS HEY.

The above words, as names of places, have several times occurred in the course of my Cheshire reading and study. What is the exact meaning of the words,—and do any of the places so called bear out the philological description?

T. T.

[1160] TOLCESTER.

This was an ancient charge or payment once levied in Cheshire, but I have hitherto failed to trace it to its origin, or to any accurate description of the "toll." Will some reader of THE SHEAF enlighten me?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

Replies.

[1161] CHESHIRE SALT MINES.

[No. 73, 1140.—June 5, 1878; May 12, 1880.]

As regards the Mines, about which a correspondent writes,—we have two Wiches in this parish; both extending beyond the limits of Cheshire, into the hundred of Maelor. There are, of course, salt springs at each. The derivation of the word Wich or Wyeh is a very interesting subject, which has been much discussed elsewhere.

W. T. KENYON.

Malpas.

The geological difficulties, surrounding the question, "Rook Salt" deposits, are very great indeed: the best theory with which I am acquainted being, that the strata are the result of a series of lagoons, having a communication with the Bristol Channel on the south, and the estuary of the Mersey on the north; and that the salt of the sea water was deposited slowly, or at low heat, as in the Caspian now. Here the several basins appear to be connected by narrow channels; for instance, the northernmost or MARSTON field of Rook Salt is continued from the present workings to the east and north, and extends to HIGH LEECH and DUNHAM, though perhaps not continuously as a broad field. This field has been explored by borings at Marston to a depth of 165 yards, thin seams of rook existing under the thick bed of Rock Salt, which is worked at a depth of 110 yards.

At NORTHWICH the width, as at present determined, is very narrow: in HARTFORD and SHURLACH there are traces of Salt, but nothing found of Rook Salt or

brine. The Weaver and Dane valleys are sand, with substratum of quicksand, and bounded by higher ground on foundation of indurated clays, &c. At WINSFORD the field has widened again, stretching to SANDBACH, NANTWICH, and COMBERMERRE: this is indicated by brine, and by the hollows that appear on the surface, though more often unnoticed in fields of whose ancient levels there are no data. Brine is found at Weston, near Stafford, and would be traced, no doubt, to Stoke, Worcestershire, and Droitwich, the most southern point where the salt field has been tapped.

The Leaden Salt-pans found at NORTHWICH are probably not older than the Civil War (?) as bullets were then much in requisition by both sides, and the Parliamentary and Royalist forces occupied the church (Witten) on one side, and the heights, which once formed the Castra of the Roman station, on the west. The lead works, existing in the High Street until the middle of the 17th century, were supervised by a master appointed under the ancient Manor, by the burgesses of the town, one of such inspectors, Robert Fox, "supervisor Plumborum," dying in the great PLAGUE of 1604, which is so vividly pictured in the register books at WITTON. There is evidence that the Romans, Britons, and the Saxons, made salt, by constructing *thorn-walls* of hazel boughs, over which the brine was led in leaky gutters to trickle slowly down, and form large salt crystals in dry warm weather. At the bottom of the 6 feet of debris, left by these old salt makers, I found, between the double stakes of a clay reservoir of small size, a Roman first brass coin, nearly obliterated: this was in the old "Bull Ring," where it is said, less than a century ago there existed, in the street pavement the stone with an iron ring attached, to which the baited bull was tied.

Rook Salt was first found by WILLIAM MARBURY, of Marbury, Esq., about Lady-day 1670, in searching for coal at the Marston boundary of his estate: see the account thereof in *Philosophical Transactions*, No. 66, Dec. 12, 1670. This discovery broke up the old monopoly of the town, probably led to the making navigable of the river WEAVER, and the consequent destruction of the Salt manufacture at NANTWICH.

Northwich.

JOHN WESTON.

If "S. E. L." will refer to a Paper in the *Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society*, for November, 1848, viz.: An "Outline of the Principal Geological Features of the Salt-field of Cheshire and the Adjoining Districts, by G. WAREING ORMEROD, F.G.S.," he will find all the information he wants.

Since that was written, and now some years ago (I have not the date, but a cutting from a newspaper giving the account at the time), it appeared that there had then recently been met with, in the Dunkirk Coal Company's Astley Deep Pit at DUCKINFIELD, "in cutting a tunnel from the Black Mine Coal, in a horizontal line towards the Cannel Mine, a beautiful spring

of salt water or brine, issuing from a fracture in the rock, though remote from the trias and saliferous or salt bearing strata, and at the depth of 700 yards in the carboniferous measures." Of this brine, the yield of salt to the gallon was stated to be about 7 oz. This would, relatively, be very weak; but it was also mentioned, "as a remarkable fact, that a fine specimen of petroleum, containing naphtha or naphthaline, floated on the surface, accompanied with a small quantity of carburetted hydrogen."

"S. E. L." alludes to the Lead Salt Pans found at NORTHWICH in 1864, and speaks of them as "recognised on all hands as Roman. This, however, cannot be said to be free from doubt. In the interesting account of them given by Mr. H. ECKROYD SMITH and Dr. KENDRICK in the *Lancashire and Cheshire Historic Transactions*, vol. 6 (N.S.), p. 199—though both expressing opinions that they are Roman—they do so with some reserve. Mr. SMITH observes "their age would have been very questionable, had it not been for the characters remaining on the outer surfaces, which are certainly Roman; and Dr. KENDRICK finds some difficulty in explaining these characters, which on one Pan are *RYCCOCH*, and on another *DEV*, and some "cable" ornamentation. The middle stroke of the first letter or character is, from accident or design, slightly shortened; and if these are intended for numerals, without any great stretch of imagination, it is simply 1308 (P). It would certainly require more ingenuity to make the other letters into *DEVA*. All the characters are of the rudest kind, and what might easily have been made in the matrix for casting the Pan, with a stick and a bit of rope.

In the Harleian MSS., Cod. 2010, Art. 11, fo. 251a., and 2008, Art. 8, fo. 46, 47, and 16a. are some very interesting and valuable particulars of the Cheshire Salt Districts, and of the manufacture of Salt. From these it appears Salt was made at NORTHWICH in 1638 under very strict regulations—the Salt houses were all numbered, and the Pans in each registered. No one was allowed to exceed his pannage; the Pans were cast and re-cast at a public "Lead Smithy" of fixed dimensions;—"every occupier's leads" were to be made "tenn stone weight a piece to the Pan before they be cast, upon pain of the lead casters forfeiture" to the Lord of 10s. The "Lead Lookers" fixed the time when boiling was to commence and when to cease. A Wich-house Walling (i.e., the number of Pans) was limited to six.

The weight of the entire Pan from Northwich, now in the WARRINGTON Museum, is 20wt. 1qr. 18lb. The NORTHWICH Pan of 1638, calculated at 14lbs. to the stone, would be only 10wt. 1qr. 8lb.: unless, therefore, the latter was much thinner (which was very likely the case, in order to economize fuel, for timber was becoming scarce) the older Pan would be very much the larger.

Though the characters on the Pans are certainly of a Roman type, the particulars will, I think, indicate the possibility of those on the first Pan representing a date or a number.

"S. E. L." will find in Camden's *Britannia*, and in Plott's *History of Staffordshire*, further information on the [subject of the Salt Works in Cheshire and elsewhere.

Tushingham Hall.

B. LL. V.

Shall I refer your correspondent "S. E. L." to the following paragraph in *A Cavalier's Note-book*, from which another contributor, "A WOODMAN," recently quoted in THE SHEAF. Recording what he had heard and seen in or about the year 1670, the old Cavalier writes:—

"I think you ought to inform yourself of that most wonderful mine of solid salt lately discovered in Cheshire. A lump of the same was given me by Sir J. P., and I can scarcely distinguish it from alum except only by the taste. It is said to be about forty foot thick, and certainly all the rich salt springs in the Wiche, mentioned by Mr. Camden, derive their perpetual flow from this or from such like."

Who is likely to have been the "Sir J. P." incidentally named above?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[1162]

QUILLET.

[No. 1137.—May 12.]

I cannot throw any light upon the etymology of the word QUILLET; but I have reason to know that it is the name given to small portions of land, such as are met with among the peasant proprietors of France, and only recognised in an open field by certain boundary stones. I had once such a piece of property myself, not far from Chester, left me by a relation who had purchased it; and I believe it was a portion assigned, on the division of a common, to a neighbouring proprietor. Perhaps you or some of your learned contributors may yet throw some light upon the derivation of the word.

Newton.

T. D-C.

[1163]

SHOLLEGH.

[No. 1139.—May 12.]

It occurs to me that the place which your correspondent, LUCY D. T., cannot find even in the large maps now fashionable, may possibly be identified with SHOCKLACH, a neighbouring parish to this, in which I take much interest. If so, it is the southwesternmost parish in the county, on the banks of the Dee, above FAENDON. Would this situation fall in with the information which LUCY D. T. has about the place? If so, I should be glad if she would give a clue to the particulars.

Malpas.

W. T. KENTON.

JUNE 2, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

June 2.— <i>Amery v. Monk</i> , celebrated Chester political Trial, ended at Shrewsbury—Verdict for Defendants	1788
„ 3.—Two Russian guns, captured at Sebastopol, brought in state to Chester Castle	1857
„ 4.—Ridley Hall unsuccessfully assaulted by the Royalists from Beeston Castle...	1645
„ 5.—Chester Volunteers marched to Oswestry and Ellesmere.....	1804
„ 6.—Dr. Charles James Blomfield nominated to the See of Chester	1824
„ 7.—The Trafford Infantry and Oswestry Cavalry came to Chester on permanent duty.....	1805
„ 8.—A Gold Coin of the Emperor Nero dug up in Foregate-street, Chester, three yards below the surface	1779

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1164] THE LEYCESTERS OF WORLESTON, POOL, AND CHESTER.

(Concluded from No. 1158.)

I now produce the copy of a letter to his son, written by JOHN MINSHULL, Mayor of Chester, 1711. He had been Sheriff in 1702, when the EARL OF DERBY was Mayor of Chester: his Lordship, dying on the 5th of November, was succeeded in the Mayoralty by Michael Johnson:—

“Chester, the 23d August 1727.

Son Alexander,

I rec'd yours of the 17th inst., in which you put me in mind you do not hear from me so often as you would. I think I am not wanting to answer every Letter I have from you, tho' I have not answered your Son's. Indeed my Distemper has been very severe with me, which has made me very uneasy, for I can neither

The Papers you have tumbled [on],—the first, as to my age, is true and so are all of them; and so let you know how that Estate at Poole etc came to my Father: that Estate was Ald'n Richard Leicesters, Brother to William Leicester and Father to Mary who married Sir Henry Delves Baronet (a), and he

a. There is a slight forgetfulness here, for Lady Mary was daughter, not of William but, of Randle Leicester. See Mr. Richard Leicester's certificate, Harl. MS., 2180, f. 57, and Sir Peter Leicester's account of the Leycesters of Pool. Ormerod's *Cheshire*, by Helsby, p. 504.

was the only Heir to Father and Brother (b); who left no Issue but her; and my Grand mother and my grand aunt (c) Capper were their Sisters, and so that Estate at my Lady's Death fell to my Father and Cousin Proby (d). That Settlement of Hampton by my wife's Death is void (e), which I shall dispose off as I shall think fitt, my Father and Self have had much wrong done us. My grandfather Minshull's Estate at Hampton was three Hundred Pounds per an', and he lived to be very old (viz) 108 years, and left his Estate to my Grandfather, who lived very fast and died young, and sold Hampton's Estate for one Years Value (viz) 300£, and died within half a year and never had but 150£ for the Estate: only 20£ a year Part of my Grandmother's Jointure was reserved. It I now enjoy. Mr. Richard Leicester was my Fathers Ruin, he being his Guardian; not laying Claim to it in Time (my Father not being at age) it was lost and my Grandfather had no power to sell it. It was Minshull's Estate above five hundred Years ago (f) and the Knocker of my House there will prove it. Michael Minshull of Minshull in Cheshire served King Richard in the Holy Wars in the Year 1196, and had only the Cressant and Star given for his Arms; but since also that Family hath born for their Crest two Lions Paws holding a Cressant. See Fuller's *Church History*, Book 3d, Century 12, Page 42, Sect.

b. Lady Mary was sole heiress to both her father Randle Leicester and her uncle Richard. In Ormerod's *Cheshire*, 3 vol., 358, Richard Leicester is erroneously named Robert; but see the certificate signed by Richard Leicester himself in Harleian MS. 2180, f. 57, where this Richard clearly shows himself as elder, and Randle as second son. There was no Robert Leicester to answer the description as in Ormerod.

c. My grandmother and my aunt; i.e., Elizabeth, wife of Randle Minshull of Hampton, and Mary, wife of Hugh Capper of Chester, were sisters of the two Leycesters, father and uncle to Lady Mary Delves. See the pedigree of Leicester of Worleston; 3 Ormerod, by Helsby, p. 358.

d. So that estate at my lady's death fell to my father, that is, to Randle Minshull (father of the writer of the letter and son of Randle M., who m. Elizabeth Leicester) and to my cousin Proby, i.e., the heir of Mary Leicester who was wife of Hugh Capper. See defendant's answer to the suit “Minshull v. Minshull.” Temp. Lord Hardwicke.

e. That settlement by my wife's death is void; it I now enjoy. This was Minshull property; part of it was still held by the writer of the letter. It is clear by the answer to the bill of discovery filed after John's death, by one of his sons against the other, that this was so, but the letter shows it too.

f. It was Minshull's estate 500 years ago, etc., the writer would seem to be here in error. It is indeed true that, dated 11 Jan. (A.D. 1615), there is in a Harleian MS., 2066 or 5, f. 357, an entry under ‘Brereton lands,’ of some of which it is said, “etiam voc. Minshull's lands, nunc tenet Francis Betterley, &c.” The first Minshull who can be, perhaps, proved to have held land at Hampton is John Minshull, whose son Randle married Elizabeth Leicester; and John had purchased that land from John Golbourne; and on the marriage of John Minshull's son a fine was levied of this Hampton estate, to which fine William Leicester and Richard Leicester were demandants, and John Minshull himself deforciant. No doubt this was for the purpose of a settlement upon the marriage mentioned in Ormerod's pedigree, before referred to, of Leicester of Worleston. The fine is given in Cole's MSS, Brit. Mus., and in Harleian MS., 2069, f. 151.

19. Minshull Baron Minshull (of Minshull in Cheshire) by Patent December 18th, Carol 1. 1642, when the King was at Oxford. But the Patent was not inrolled, being in the Time of the Rebellion. And for that Estate I have in Chester, it came to me as the Estate at Pool etc (g). My Father gave his Part to me, and the other Part I purchased of Cousin Proby etc.

Having given you this account, I will now tell you how good a Stepmother my Lady Delves has been to the Family of Dodington: her Jointure was about 300*£* a Year, and Sir Henry her Husband (h) left her a personal Estate worth Ten Thousand Pounds; but she, neither for the personal Estate nor her Jointure, tho' she lived a widow more than Twenty nine Years, never had nor would take any Thing: and before the marriage of this Sir Thomas Delves which could not settle a Jointure on his wife, my Lady relinquished all without any Consideration. And now to tell you something of your Mother; her grandmother was Skeffington of Fisherwick (i) and was Sister to the old Lord Massereen, and she married Walthall of Wistaston (k) in Cheshire, who had several Children, as Col Walthall etc, and several Daughters, the Eldest of which was Mary who married Mr. Robert Wever, (l) of Wever & Poole, whose eldest Daughter was my dear Wife your Mother: and now I shall not trouble you any further, but to tell you your Business will not give you Leave to acquaint me (sic) particularly of all your Healths, which I desire you will do, and that you give my Thanks to my Grandson John for his ingenious

g. And for that estate I have at Chester, etc., it came to me as that at Pool; i.e., it was all Leycester property except that at Hampton; and that Leycester property, after the death of Lady Mary Delves, "had been settled to descend to another Leycester." [See the words of Sir Peter Leycester, cited in Ormerod's *Cheshire*, by Helehy, 1st vol., p. 104.] And so it descended to this John, the writer, as representing his grandmother, Elizabeth Leycester, and to John's cousin Proby, as representing his ancestress, Elizabeth Leycester's sister Mary, who had married Hugh Capper.

h. Sir Henry Delves d. 1663, and Lady Delves in 1680, *citator*.

i. See the Skeffington of Fisherwick Pedigree in Shaw's *History of Staffordshire*, and Mr. S. Pipe Wolverston's additions; from which it appears that the writer of this mistakes in making his ancestress sister of the old Lord Massereen, she being his aunt.

k. Alice mar. (Alexander) Walthall of Wistaston, having survived him, she was buried in Malpas Church, where a defaced monument imperfectly preserves the record which Mr. S. P. Wolverston has appropriated to the rightful party, i.e., to Alice Skeffington, relict of Alexander Walthall, of Wistaston. See Mr. S. P. Wolverston's *MSS. additions to Shaw's Hist. of Staffordshire*, now in the Brit. Museum, and the inscription in Ormerod's *History of Cheshire*, as to Malpas Church Monument.

l. Mary Walthall married Mr. Robert Wever. Richard Wever, clerk, was trustee of the settlement of their daughter Mary with John Minshull, writer of the letter. This Rich. Wever, Clerk, held the living of Wistaston, of which the Walthalls were patrons. See Ormerod, under Wistaston. Dr. Ormerod says that he seemed to be the last male representative of the Wevers, of Pool, in Nantwich Hundred, who are entered in Dugdale's *Visitation* of 1663.

Letter and Token with (it): my Blessing to you all concludes from

Your Loving Father

J. MINSHULL.

I live now in my own

House (m) in Bridg (sic) Street."

In ACRON Churchyard was formerly (I should be glad to hear it is there still) the following inscription to Robert Weaver, and his wife, Mary Walthall:—

"Conditur hoc tumulo Robertus Weaver Gen. una cum Maria conjuge charissimâ, Alex. Walthall et Aliciæ ux: ejus filiâ quæ ex antiquâ Skeffington stirpe ortum duxerit. Dicta Maria cum soboles utriusque sexus ix peperisset vitam conjugalem, per annos xxxviii agens in Festo S'ci Barnabæ, ætatis 58, salutis anno 1680 obiit. Rob'tus vero Decemb. 31, anno Dni 1701, ætatis 82. Quibus Ric'us, hor. filius, mærens hoc posuit."

The Registers of Aton Church of that date, I believe, were destroyed by fire.

Stafford.

T. J. M.

Notes.

[1165]

QUADRILLE.

In looking over an old Chester paper of 1775, I came across the following rules adopted by the Ladies of Chester. Can any one supply information as to whom the "Court" consisted of?

"At a Court of Honour lately held by the Ladies of the City of Chester;

Representation having been made, that several persons have lately abused the polite and agreeable GAME of QUADRILLE by prostituting it to the mean and mercenary purposes of gaming, the Court having taken the said growing evil into consideration, unanimously came to the following RESOLUTIONS:—

1. That the GAME of QUADRILLE is a pleasing amusement, invented solely for the innocent recreation of persons of quality and honour; and that the perverting it to interested, lucrative, or avaricious uses ought to be stigmatised as vicious, selfish, dishonourable, and characteristic of low breeding.
2. That this Court will therefore, to the utmost of its power, discountenance, and by every legal means evince its abhorrence of, such low and contemptible practice.
3. That in order to render the said polite GAME of QUADRILLE a public benefit, the Court doth

m. This was, too, Leycester property, and is close to St. Michael's Church; in which lie the bodies of many Leycesters and Minshulls, and amongst them of those of Lady Mary Delves (recorded by a tablet in the Chancel), and of John Minshull, the writer of this Letter, written, it appears from other sources, in the house in which Lady Delves died.

hereby order and direct, that all sums of moneys, won at said **GAME** in the City of Chester, be in future disposed of in the following manner, viz. **ONE HALF** thereof to be appropriated to the occasional expence of **CARDS**: the other **HALF** to be applied to the establishment of a fund to be called the **LADIES' FUND**.

4. That the said **LADIES' FUND** be solely and strictly employed in rewarding and encouraging **GOOD** and **FAITHFUL SERVANTS** in the following manner:—

Every man or maidservant in any of the parishes of the City of **CHESTER**, who, from and after the first day of January 1776, shall have served in any gentleman's or housekeeper's family **ONE YEAR**, shall be entitled to **ONE GUINEA**. Oath before the Mayor to be made by each servant of such service: and likewise a certificate of good behaviour produced, from the Master or Mistress.

Every male or female, serving in any of the parishes aforesaid, staying in his or her place **TWO YEARS**, and conforming to the above rules, shall be entitled to the sum of **TWO GUINEAS**.

And to every servant who shall continue in one place three years, or upwards, a discretionary superior reward. And also a further discretionary reward to each of such **GOOD SERVANTS** when they enter into the holy state of matrimony.

5. That a **COMMITTEE OF LADIES** be appointed to carry the above **PLAN** into immediate execution.

That a **LADY OF DISTINCTION** be appointed **RECEIVER GENERAL OF WINNINGS**.

That every mistress of a house in the City of Chester and its environs be a **DEPUTY RECEIVER OF WINNINGS**, and pay quarterly into the hands of the Receiver General, the half of the winnings of each such house, for the use and the purposes above mentioned. And, that each Deputy Receiver be directed to prepare a white purse for such winnings, and to have it marked **G. S. P. for GOOD SERVANTS' PURSE**.

And that the said purse always accompany the fish and counters at every **POOL**.

6. That a **CHARITABLE ASSEMBLY** be very soon held in the City of Chester, in order further to digest, improve, and commence this **PLAN**: and that all the **GENTLEMEN** who regard the esteem of the **LADIES** fail not to attend the same.

7. That a **FAIR** list be made out of all the ladies, mistresses of houses, that accede to this **PLAN**; said list to be kept by the Receiver General of Winnings; and that all ladies, mistresses of houses, who happen to be absent from the said Charitable Assembly, be requested to send in their names to the said Receiver General in order to their being inserted in said list.

And further that no mistress of a house (using **QUADRILLE**) shall be esteemed a member of the **POLITE CIRCLE** whose name is not on said list.

8. That whoever presumes to use the **GAME OF QUADRILLE** in the said City of Chester, to any other interest, than the establishment of the above **PUBLIC BENEFIT**, be deemed, and they are hereby deemed to be, no other than **GAMBLERS**.

9. That whoever despitefully censure or set themselves up to oppose the above laudable, humane, and benevolent **PLAN**, shall be treated with the merited disdain of the Ladies of the City of Chester, and be also branded with the deserved name of **BUMPKINS**.

Ordered: That the above **RESOLUTIONS** be published in the **CHESTER CHRONICLE**, that no person may plead ignorance of the same."

Ledsham.

E. M.

Queries.

- [1166] **CHESTER BEAN AND BACON FEAST.**

The *Chester Courant* of the period informs us that there was a "Bean and Bacon Feast at the Eaton Boat House, Chester," on Aug. 18, 1768. Was this feast an "institution?"

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

- [1167] **FLINT OLD CHURCH.**

Is there any good architectural description of the old Church existing at **FLINT** at the beginning of this century? From a drawing of it I have seen it must have been a pretty little structure, and deserved a better fate than to be substituted by such an abortive effort as the one I remember to have seen some 20 years ago. I believe there were some respectable old monuments in the church,—is it any use enquiring what became of them?

L. L.

- [1168] **A BOARDING SCHOOL ELOPEMENT.**

Who was the Miss **G. TILSON** who eloped in 1769 from a boarding school (I think) at **CHESTER**, and was brought safely back from Calais to her friends, before she had opportunity to change her name?

F.

Replies.

- [1169] **THE GRASTY FAMILY.—MR. SAMUEL HEATH.**

[No. 1122.—April 28.]

DR. MONK GIBSON's contribution to **THE SHEAF** is an interesting illustration of the value which attaches

to the publication of original information. The ALICE GRASTY, who was married to JOHN TURBOT, at Warburton, on Nov. 17, 1680, was the daughter of Thomas Grasty or Grastie, of Great Warford, in the parish of ALDERLEY, co. Chester, and was baptized at the small chapel of Goostrey (in Sandbach parish) on July 28, 1639. Her father, THOMAS GRASTIE, gent., entered a pedigree of five generations at the *Cheshire Visitation* of 1664, when he returned himself as being then 33 years of age. I have printed a short account of this family in the second volume of "*East Cheshire*." They claimed the following arms and crest, but Sir William Dugdale records "respite given for proof of arms, but none made,"—"Argent, on a fesse engrailed sable, three martlets of the first." Crest,—“a martlet argent, round the neck an engrailed collar sable.” It was interesting to me to learn that they removed to Warrington; for it seemed probable that they had left Warford, as after about 1680 few entries relating to them are to be found in the Alderley Registers. They appear, however, to have still retained their Warford property, as the burial of THOMAS GRASTIE, of Warford, gent., is duly recorded in the ALDERLEY Registers on the 21st January, 1698-9 (not the 14th as given by Mr. Gibbon,—it was a week later); but after that period their names are not to be found, and the Thomas Grastie who died at Warrington in 1750 was buried there.

Your correspondent also asks for information about the SAMUEL HEATH, who was buried at PRESTBURY in Cheshire on the 14th July, 1708. He was the son of William Heath (of co. Stafford?) by Ann, his wife, daughter of Jasper (? Peter) WORTH of Titherington, co. Chester, Esq.; the representative of an old Cheshire family, of whom an account, with a full pedigree, will be found in "*East Cheshire*," vol. ii. On the death of John Worth, of Titherington, Esq., who was buried at Prestbury on September 14, 1695, Samuel succeeded to the Titherington estates. He sold these in November, 1695, and appears to have settled in Dublin. He was married, but I have not met with the maiden name of his wife, Elizabeth; who survived him, and who is named in his will dated 8 June, 1708, proved 14 August, 1708. They had no issue.

If your correspondent can give me any clue to the age of SAMUEL HEATH at his death in 1708, it would solve the question as to whether his father married a daughter of Jasper or Peter Worth.

J. P. EARWAKER.

Withington, near Manchester.

[1170] WREXHAM CHURCH TOWER.

[No. 1129.—May 5, 1880.]

A correspondent asks (referring to some remarks of mine in *Notes and Queries*) if I think that towers ever rock in the wind? I can only reply

that I have no means of knowing. I never said that they did!

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

[1171] THE LORDS OF MOLD.

[No. 1148.—May 19]

An account of the Lordship of MOLD will be found in the excellent work of Mr. PENNANT. (*Tours in Wales*, vol. 2, pp. 37-41, edition of 1810.) "I am uncertain," he says, in commencing the last paragraph of his account, "how long the crown reserved this lordship. I find it was granted to the Stanley family, perhaps to Sir JOHN STANLEY, by Henry IV., at the same time that he bestowed on him *Hope* and *Hopedale*. The Earls of Derby possessed it till the execution of Earl James, after which both the manors of *Hope* and *Mold* were purchased by certain persons, &c." "The Derby family," he adds, "by some means, regained the lordship of *Hope*; but that of *Mold* is as present the property of Lady Vincent. The mineral profits of the manor which have, at times, been very considerable, are equally divided between her Ladyship, the *Trevors*, and John Lloyd, Esq., of Havodunos."

Mr. PENNANT is slightly wrong in his conjecture as to the time when the manor of MOLD was granted to the Stanley family. "The Castle, Lordship, and Manors of Hawardyn and Molantesdale," were granted by Henry the Sixth to Sir THOMAS STANLEY "the Controller of our household," afterwards the 1st LORD STANLEY, on the 14th of October, 1443; and the manor of HOPE was granted some years afterwards by RICHARD the Third to Sir Thomas Stanley, the 2nd Lord Stanley, and afterwards 1st EARL OF DERBY. The difference in the occasion on which these grants were made was of considerable importance, two centuries later, as I will shew presently.

After the execution of JAMES, EARL OF DERBY, the celebrated Cavalier, his three manors of Hawarden, MOLD, and Hope were sold under an act of forfeiture, and purchased in 1652 by Captain Andrew Ellis; who acted for Sir John Trevor, Colonel Twisleton and himself, in pursuance of articles of agreement made with CHARLES, EARL OF DERBY. The Earl undertook to repay the purchase money, with interest, and the cost and charges of the purchasers, within a year; and it was agreed that, if he failed in payment, the purchase should "be wholly to the purchasers' own use." A sum of £9,000, being so much of the purchase money and charges as was due for the redemption of HAWARDEN, having been paid by Sir JOHN GLYNNE, the purchasers and the Earl of Derby joined in conveying the manor of Hawarden to that thrifty lawyer. And the Earl in pursuance of his agreement conveyed MOLD and HOPE to Andrew Ellis, and the two other purchasers.

A partition of the estates thus acquired was shortly afterwards effected. When Sir JOHN TREVOR obtained,

as his share, the manor of HOPK and the lands there which had belonged to the *Stanley* family, and a portion of the lands in MOLD; ANDREW ELLIS had, for his share, the Manor of MOLD, and a portion of the lands there; while Colonel TWISLETON had the remainder of the lands.

Out of this partition the minerals were excepted; and thus, though Andrew Ellis and those who have represented him have been the Lords of the Manor; the mineral profits have been equally divided between three distinct families, and the name "LORDS OF MOLD" has been popularly given to the persons who in different degrees are entitled to the shares of Sir John Trevor, Colonel Twisleton, and Captain Andrew Ellis.

At the Restoration, the EARL OF DERBY endeavoured, as is related by Mr. Pennant, to recover MOLD and HOPK from the then possessors. But as he failed to pay the compensation which was awarded them, the decision that they should remain in quiet possession appears to have been entirely equitable.

Proceedings to recover these estates were afterwards taken by succeeding Earls; and it was decided, after a protracted litigation, that the Manor of HOPK, having been given by Richard the Third for services rendered to the Crown by Sir THOMAS STANLEY, was not alienated from his descendants by the conveyances executed by Earl CHARLES, although the other manors were effectually alienated by similar conveyances.

The manor of HOPK, having been thus recovered from the grandson of Sir JOHN TREVOR, is still the property of the DERBY family. The lands belonging to the manor were sold some years ago, but the old Castle and the Lordship were retained as a memorial, it would seem, of vast possessions once held in Flintshire.

WM. TREVOR PARKINS.

[1172] FARNDON AND HOLT.

[No. 1150.—May 19]

I have an old coloured map of Denbighshire and Flintshire, by Christopher Saxon, A.D. 1577. FARNDON is there described as FERNTON. HOLT appears as HOLT PARK and HOLT CASTLE.

FERNTON, or FERNTOWN, I believe to be the original and true name, as the locality abounds with Red Sandstone cliffs, the favourite locale of these plants. FARNDON is a mere corruption of the old name, as ferns are to this day called "farns" or "fyarns" in the locality. HOLT is of Saxon derivation, and means a woody hill.

Have any of your readers ever met with the following doggerel rhyme in connection with HOLT and FARNDON:—

"Holt lions, Farndon bears,
Charlton greyhounds, Aldford hares?"

There are two or three more lines in the same style which I forget.

Wrexham.

LANDWOR.

JUNE 9, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

June 9.—Dr. Charles James Blomfield elected Bishop of Chester.....	1824
" 10.—Llangollen Volunteers arrived at Chester on 14 days' permanent duty	1808
" 11.—Cheshire Militia marched to Coxheath...	1781
" 12.—Foundation Stone of Marston Church, Great Budworth, laid by Lord de Tabley	1873
" 13.—Lord Belgrave (afterwards first Marquis of Westminster), elected M.P. for Chester, in room of E. Wilbraham Bootle, resigned	1790
" 14.—Lady Caroline Amelia Grosvenor (Lady Leigh of Stoneleigh), born	1828
" 15.—Temple and Thompson, Luddites, executed at Chester, for rioting	1812
J. H.	

Original Documents.

[1173] HENRY GEE, MAYOR OF CHESTER.

Of all the Mayors who ruled over CHESTER at or about the Reformation period, none compared for vigilance as a magistrate, or for zeal as a social reformer, with the locally celebrated HENRY GEE. It was an evil day for the municipal abuses of Chester when old "Harry Gee the Draper," as he was called (who had been Sheriff in 1527), reached the chair as Chief Magistrate in 1538, and once more in 1539.

With a high hand and an unswerving purpose, he put the Corporation house in order. He set out in a Table the "Gabull rent" of the city, and the names of the tenants and the property chargeable therewith; he drew up and published a List of the Customs due at the Port of Chester; and he settled the Fees in other ways payable to the Civic Officials. He perambulated the Boundaries of the County of the City, which it would seem had not been done since the days of the Black Prince; he compiled, too, a Rental of the City's houses and lands, to stop the speculations that had been long previously going on therein; and he put his stern foot on all corrupt appointments to offices of trust in the municipality. He banished the "Idle Begars and Vacabounds" from their dens in the city; he regulated the Corn Market; he established the first attempt at a school board; he kept up the quality of fish in the market, and at the same time kept down the price. He would not allow giddy unmarried girls to keep common

ale-houses; he stopped immorality at Churchings and other feasts: in short, there was not a crying abuse in Chester to which old HENRY GEE did not apply a vigorous remedy. Many of his Assembly Orders have already appeared in full in THE SHEAF; others will from time to time follow, and will amply justify all I have just said of his reforming zeal.

But in due time the debt of nature had to be paid, and the whilom dictator of Chester had to bend his own head to the arch dictator—death. The Will he left behind him is not without its interesting features; and, being stored in an unusual place, viz, in the earliest Registrar's Book in the Bishop's Office, and not in the Court of Probate, deserves, were it but for that reason alone, a welcome home in these columns:—

"In the name of god, Amen. The Second daye off Septemb'r, in the yere of o'r lord god A thousand fyve hundrethe xlv'th, & in the yere of o'r moste drede Sou'rayne lord henry the viij'th, By the grace of god of Eengland, fraunce, and Ireland, kyng ye xxxvij'th, and defender of the fayth, & in yerthe of the churchs of england & also of Ireland, supreme hed,

I, HENRY GEE, citisin and alderman of the citi of CHEST'r, beyng of whole mynd and in good p'fecte remembrance, laud and prayse be vnto almyghti god, make and ordene this my p'nt testame't co'tenyng herein my last will in man' and forme following, that I to saye; first and p'ncipalie I co'mend my soule vnto christ Jesue my maker and redemer, in whome and by ye merites of whos blessed passion is all my whole trust & (sic) cleane remission and forgiveness of my sin'es. And my bodie to be buried where god shall dispose it.

I will y't my wiff shall haue my dwellyng in CHEST'r w'tout ony rent payeng, makyng rep'cions, w't all oubbarts, coffers, bedstocks, tables, benches, hangyngs, & leds, as it dothe stand now; & A standynd cuppe y't hir fath' gave me, duryng hir lif, and then to remene to my dought'r ANNE, & to hir heires of hir bodie lawfully begotten; & furth' my sayd wif & my dought' anne to haue all my lands in MOLDESWORTH, & my ferme in LITIL MOLDESWORTH & the mylles; y't is to saye, ij p'ts of all this same to my wiff duryng hir lif, & ye thrid p'te to my dought, ANNE: & if so be y't my broth' in lawe do acquit out ye lands in MOLDESWORTH, then I will y't my dought' ANNE shall haue to hir mariag' the one half of they same money, which is a hundreth and v. pounds; & ye half of my ferme in LITIL MOLDESWORTH, & she to recoue ye same money at ye hands of my execut's the[y] puttyng in surtie to my wiff & oth' hir frends, as well for ye payment of ye same as for to be accou'table for hir p'te of ye same, and my wif to haue ye oth' half, w'ch is a hundreth & v. pounds, & ye custodie of my dought'; and my execut's to haue & recoue all such hir p'te of lands, goods, or taks vnto such time as she be married, puttyng in surties as is aboue written, and payeng vnto my wiff of ye same hir parte tijt. vjs. viijd. for hir table & apparrell so long as she dothe kepe hir.

And I will, if it plesse god to call for my wif, y't my dought' shall haue all my lands in MOLDESWORTH, my house in CHES', & ye residue of my eres of LITIL MOLDESWORTH to hir & to ye heres of hir bodie lawfullie begotten; & if it plesse god to cale for my dought' afore my wif, ye sayd dought' dieng w'tout heres of hir bodie lawfullie begotten, Then I will my execut's shall haue ye p'te y't my dought' had to hir p'formanc' of hir will.

& furth' I will that if my broth' do acquit out my lands, & my dought' die afore she marie, my execut's to haue hir p'te of money to ye p'formyng of this my will, & to paye my detts: & furth' I will y't my dought' shall not marie w'tout thadvise of my wif & my execut's, And [if] she dothe, to haue but ye thrid part of my lands in moldesworth or ye thrid p'te of my money y't is payed for ye same.

& where I latly purchased ye manor in MANLEY & certene lands & tenements in MANLEY, ELTON, & ALMONLEY, w'tin the cou'ties of CHEST'r, of LAWRENC, DUTTON, late of MANLEY, I will y't RAUFF DUTTON of HATTON, esquire, shall haue ye same manor & ye sayd lands to hime & his heires and assinges for eu', or to such p'son or p'sons as ye said RAUFF shall name & appoynt; & y't my execut's shall do & make all assurance & astat's for yemakyng sure of ye same, as shall be devised by ye sayed RAUFF DUTTON, apou ye costs of ye same RAUFF; & y't my execut's shall hold & occupie ye sayd manor & oth' ye p'myssees vntill ye feast of the an'unciacio' of o'r ladie next cumyng, & at y't tyme to dep'te ffrom the same, & no furth' to meddell y'with.

And furth' I will y't my execut's shall haue all my goods, movable and vnmovable, oorne, cattale, & all oth' my fermes, lands or leases, and all such detts as is owyng me where soen' the be, or in whose hands, to ye payeng of all my detts & to p'forme & fulfill my will, & bequests, & my buriall.

& furth'r I will y't my wiff shall make no titill, nor clame, [to] vex or trowble my sone EDMUND nor my sone in lawe RIO' SHALCROSSE, for any p'te of such lands as y'e haue of my gyfte in CHEST'r & MAN-CHEST'r. And if she do trowble or vex them for ony p'te y'of, then I will y't she shall haue but ye thrid p'te of all such lands, goods, & tacks as I haue accou'dyng to ye lawe.

& furth'r I will y't if my daughter ANNE do die w'tout heres of hir bodie lawfully begotten, y't then all such lands, fermes, tacks, or what money shall be payed for the same, (my wifes p'te duryng hir lif alwayes p'serued), shall remene to my sone EDMONDE & to my daughter M'GERT & to ye heres of y'r sen'all bodie lawfully begotten; and for defaulte of ye heires of ye one to remene to ye heres of ye oth'r, & for defaulte of souche heires, then to remene to my right heires.

& furth' I will y't my execut's shall paye vnto EL'SAB'TH SHALCROSSE, dought'r vnto my dought'r EL'SAB'Z, xx'ti nobles at hir mariage, yn recompence of all souche rec'onynge & demands betwixte hir fath'r & me at ye tyme of his mariage to my dought'r.

Also I will y't if my dought'r ANNE do die w'tout heires of hir bodie lawfully begotten, y't ye lands do disceind & com to my sone EDMONDE & dought'r M'GREET or to y'r heires, and then y'e or y'r heires paye to ye foresayd ELISAB'E SHALLCROSSE xx'ti marks more, if she be alive.

& furth'r I will y't if JOHN LIGHTFOTTE, of BROWNEHILL, do iustly & truly fulfill all such bargens y't is betwixte him & me, y't then my execut's shall rebate him at ye laste payme'te fyve marks. & furth'r I will y't SALSE ye spanyerd for ye good loue y't I bere vnto hym, & in reco'pence of all suche rekenyngs betwixte hym & me, shall haue v'li. I will y't KATHERYN CHATTERTON shall haue to hir marriage, in reco'pence of all rekenyngs betwixte hir fath'r & me, v marks.

I will my wif shall haue all my honahold at ye FELLS & at MANLEY, execept such p'cell as I do assigne to my execut's, ffyrst all ye reme't belonging to my bodie to my execut's. It'm all man' of workeloomes, as waynes & plowes & oth'r p'tionlrs y'rto belonging. It'm my tow grett potts of Brasse.

And I doe make my sone RONDELL & my sonne EDMUNDE GEN myn excecutors, & my brother EDWARD JANNEY to be ou'sear. And yf so be my executours will not p'forme this my will, then I will that my brother EDWARD JANNEY shall haue all suche goods, and he to p'forme this my wyll.

These beinge p'nte in ye makinge of this my will w'th my oune hand, the day & yere aboue wrytten, Dame JANE LEE, my sister in lawe, THOMAS SEYLLY, HENRY WILKINSON, JOHN SABBOTTE, JAMES CHATTERTON of MOLDEWORTHE, w'th others.

The some of his debts w'ch he } lxxxvjli. xvjs. 8d." dyd owe is in ye inuotory }

A further short article to be given next week will bring to an end my remarks on the closing scene in the career of good HENRY GEE.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1174] A DEBTOR PRISONER'S PETITION.

Debtors in our forefathers' days fared far differently from similar delinquents now. The principle of rapid whitewashing now so popular, liquidations by arrangement, and other subtle arts more or less equivocal and shady, had no place then in our bankruptcy code. The man who wasted his means and jockeyed his creditors had no mercy extended to him; but was quickly consigned to prison, where he not unfrequently dragged out the remainder of his days in a sort of semi-starvation, dependent on the charity of his family and friends. Such a one it may be presumed was the unfortunate wight whose original Petition for help from the debtors' ward of CHESTER CASTLE lies now before me. This is the burden of his prayer:—

"To Mr. Francis Sayer and Mr. Charles Jackson, Aldermen of the Worshipfull Company of Smiths, Pewterers, Braziers, Plummers, Cutlers, Cardmakers, and Spurriers.

Whereas John Wilson, son of Ralph Wilson, deceas'd, formerly a brother of this Company, is by misfortune and cross providences reduc'd to a very loe and miserable condition, insoemuch y't he has bin for six months last past, and now is, confin'd a prisoner for debt in the Castle of CHESTER, being in noe capacity to dislodge himselfe from y't place he humbly Implores you will take into consideration the deplorableness of his condition, in extending your Charity towards him, and Exciteing the rest of the Brethren to follow your good Examples: in soe doing your humble Petitioner will be forever bound in duty to Pray for your health and happiness.

JOHN WILSON.

Chester Castle, July 3rd.

1716."

This debtor's father, Ralph Wilson, pewterer, was admitted a Freeman of Chester in 1672; and a younger Ralph, also a pewterer, perhaps his son, took up his Freedom in 1721.

G. T.

Queries.

[1175] THOMAS BATESON, ORGANIST.

Was there ever resident in Chester an Organist of the above name? He may have been on the staff of the Cathedral; but as there is, as I am assured, no printed or easily procurable List of the musical staff of the Cathedral, this Query inserted in THE SHEAF may perhaps elicit, if not a chronological List of those Officials, at least information as to the above-named musician, who was, I fancy, living at Chester somewhere towards the close of the 16th century.

S. H. C.

[1176] GREENWALLS, DODLESTON.

Has this estate now an independent existence, or has the ownership passed, like so many similar and adjoining properties, into the hands of the Grosvenors? What is the origin of its name, and who were the earlier owners?

A WOODMAN.

[1177] BOLESWORTH CASTLE, A POEM BY THOMAS TOWNSHEND, 1777.

A thin quarto pamphlet of some 14 pages, probably now far from common, bears the following title:—

"BOLESWORTH CASTLE. A Poem. Inscribed to MRS. CREWE.

'Bolesworth, thy Scenes attract my Eyes
With genial Joy and sweet Surprise.'

CHESTER: Printed by J. Poole, at the New General Printing Office, Foregate-street, MDCCCLXXVII."

It is dedicated "To Mrs. Crewe, Bolesworth-Castle," by "your most obedient servant, the Author," whose name is nowhere given. In the copy of this pamphlet in my possession, this omission has been remedied by the insertion of the name THOMAS TOWNSHEND, in a contemporary hand, underneath the words above quoted, "the Author." The poem itself has very little literary merit, and contains no information of local interest. Did Mr. Townshend write anything else, and can any of your readers supply any particulars about him?

Withington.

J. P. EARWAKER.

[1178] SAMUEL RICHARDSON, THE STENOGRAPHER, OF CHESTER.

In the year 1800 the above shorthand-writer had an "academy" in Foregate-street, Chester. I shall be glad to learn some further particulars of him, with the view of ascertaining whether his connection with Chester was as temporary as this note about him would lead one to suppose.

His *Short-hand*, which went through four editions, was a modification of that of Gurney's; and its preparation was due to the suggestion of Edward Mainwaring, Esq. (of Peover?), who is commemorated in the dedication of the first edition. It was entitled—

"A new system of Short-Hand, by which more may be written in one hour, than in an hour and half by any other system hitherto published; which is more fully demonstrated by a fair comparison with one of the best systems extant [Dr. Mavor's]; with a short and easy method by which any person may determine, even before he learns this system, whether it will enable him to follow a speaker. By Samuel Richardson.

Printed by J. M'Creery, Houghton-street, Liverpool; and sold by Vernor and Hood, No. 31, Poultry, and James Wallis, Paternoster Row, London; Bell and Bradfute, and J. Guthrie, Edinburgh; J. and A. Duncan, Glasgow; William Jones, Liverpool; and the Author at his Academy, Foregate-street, Chester.—1800.

8vo. Pp. iv., 54, 16 plates."

The second edition was published two years later, with the same title.

"Liverpool; Printed by Coddington & Co. for W. Jones, Bookseller, Castle-street. Sold also by Vernor and Hood, No. 31, Poultry, and Crosby and Letterman, Stationers'-court, London; by Bell & Bradfute, J. Guthrie, and Mundell & Son, Edinburgh; by J. & A. Duncan, Glasgow; Binus, Leeds; Clarke Co., Manchester; Dunn & Biggs, Nottingham; and the Author at his Academy, Chester.—1802.

8vo. pp. vi., 50, 16 plates."

There was no dedication to this copy. The Preface is dated Chester, June 2, 1801.

I should be glad to obtain a copy of the third edition, which is not in my collection.

In the fourth edition, corrected, price 8s., the author is described as "Late Teacher at Chester."

"London: Printed by J. and E. Hodson, Cross-street, Hatton Garden; for B. Crosby and Co., Stationers' Court; and sold by all the Booksellers in Liverpool, Chester, and Warrington; J. Guthrie, Edinburgh; Heaton, Leeds; Clarke & Co., Manchester; Poole, Taunton; Eidge, Newark; Jackson, Louth; Drakard and Roos, Stamford; Robinson, Nottingham; Marsden, Colchester; Richardson, Bristol; Meyler, Bath; Farraby, Hull; Holden, Halifax; Thompson & Co., Birmingham; Gardner, Bolton; and all other Booksellers.—1810.

8vo. Pp. viij., 56, plates, 14 & 2 sheets letterpress."

The chief defect of the system was the wide field which the writing occupied, necessitating the use of paper specially ruled. It never reached another edition, the methods of Taylor and others finding greater favour with the public. RICHARDSON's system is commended in Lewis's *Hist. of Shorthand*, pp. 174 seq.; but unfavourably criticised in Pitman's *History*, ed. 1868, pp. 74 seq.; and Levy's *History*, pp. 181 seq.

Stretford.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

Replies.

[1179] THE FINNEY OAK.

[Nos. 199, 416.—Aug. 7, Dec. 11, 1878.]

I think I have caught a trace of the "stately old tree" which took SIR PETER LEYCESTER's attention when writing his *Antiquities of Bucklow Hundred*. Turning over the pages of *A Cavalier's Note Book*, recently published, I to-day found the following curious description of the monarch of Delamere Forest:—

"MR. IRELAND, of Lydiat, told me that he saw an Oak that grows in the forest of DELAMERE, the bole of which is affirmed to be in circumference 14 yards. MR. HENRY STANLEY told me at the same instant that the said Oak was measured to be in circumference about the bole 14 yards 1 foot. This they told me October 2, 1663."

I should fancy, if the Minute Books of the Foresters of Delamere were examined, some official record of this "Finney Oak," once growing at Finborow, would surely be met with.

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[1180] RICHARD DE BURY.

[Nos. 1119, 1127.—April 28, May 5.]

I have fallen in with another reference to this distinguished lawyer, ecclesiastic, and ardent book worm, in the *Cheshire Records*, which had evidently escaped the notice of MR. J. E. BAILEY. It enables me to point out an error, either of the Archbishop in writing his

letter to a distinguished Chester merchant in the early part of the 14th century, or else of RICHARD DE BURY himself, in transcribing it into his curious Letter Book still extant.

No such individual as *William de Lancaster* is to be met with in our Chester annals within the reigns of the first three Edwards. But there was a prominent citizen at the time, one *William de Dancastre*, alias Doncaster, who was Sheriff of Chester city in 1312, and Mayor four years in succession, viz., 1316-19, and he is evidently the man to whom the Archbishop's letter was really addressed.

WILLIAM DONCASTER was a man of large property in Chester, Cheshire, and Flintshire. He was especially interested in RHUDDLAN in the latter county, where he seems, from 1314 to 1323, to have been continually acquiring land. In the last named year, I meet with him in personal association with RICHARD DE BURY, under his alias of "de St. Edmundo," as the following quotation from the printed Calendar will show:—

"1323, June 10. Charter of RICHARD 'DE SANCTO EDMUNDO,' granting to *William de Doncaster* and Felicia his wife, a messuage in Rothelan, near the bridge of Cloyd, which the said Richard had of the gift of William de Rolleston, and of which one end abutted upon the highway leading from the market to the bridge of the same town, and the other upon the cemetery of the Church of St. Mary."

From this I think it may be taken as certain that it was to *William Doncaster*, and not Lancaster, that Archbishop Melton addressed the missive which the Chester Chamberlain and book-lover transcribed into his letter book, as quoted by MR. BAILEY.

But RICHARD DE BURY was still more closely identified with CHESTER than by his office of Chamberlain. Immediately contiguous to the Castle, in which his official residence was situated, stands the Church of St. MARY on the Hill, of which the Abbots of Chester were the patrons. On the 18th of the kalends of February (Jany. 15) 1324, a vacancy having arisen in St. Mary's Rectory, while the temporalities of St. Werburgh's Abbey were for some reason in the King's hand, Edward II. presented thereto his then or late Chamberlain "Richard of St. Edmunds," he being at the time also Dean of Wells. On the *Cheshire Recognizance Rolls*, formerly among the Castle muniments at CHESTER, but now deposited in the Public Record Office, London, is filed, under date

"January 20, 1326-7. Recognizance for £3. 16. 8, from Thomas Harding and Richard de Moston to the "Lord Richard of St. Edmund," parson of the Church of St. Mary on the Mount, near the Castle of Chester."

And on the 26th December, 1326, as I find from ORMEROD's list of Rectors, he had resigned the living, to enter upon that splendid career of advancement which culminated in his becoming Bishop of Durham, Lord Treasurer, and Lord Chancellor of England.

I fancy it will be found that Felicia, the wife of William de Doncaster, was a daughter of Sir William Boydell, of Dodleston, near Chester; in which case there is a slight error in Ormerod's pedigree of the Boydells of that place.

T. HUGHES.

[1181] THE TARVIN DOG-WHIPPER.

[No. 1147.—May 19.]

I see an article in "THE SHEAF" referring to an old custom of "Noddle-Napping" in Church during divine service, as practised in TARVIN fifty years ago. The writer of that note enquires, did such care of the drowsy portion of the congregation exist elsewhere?

This recalls to my recollection that when I was about 19 years of age and residing in CHESTER, in 1823, I on one occasion, accompanied by a friend, walked down to HAWARDEN Church in good time for morning service. Finding plenty of old oak pews four or five feet high, and no verger to show us to a seat, we entered one, two or three removes from the door, on the left-hand side. After being seated there a short time, a big burly farmer and his spouse dragged open the pew-door in a very rough manner, and, with an unmistakeable gesture, in a most audible tongue called out "Come out of that!" which summons we perforce obeyed; but were at once welcomed by a more considerate farmer into the pew occupied by himself and family.

During the service a functionary, equipped in the parish beadle fashion, and furnished with a six or seven feet staff surmounted with a gilded ball, perambulated the Church; and now and then could be heard the rap of the golden ball on the cranium of some unlucky drowsy one! If it is still used in that Church, it may have at times aroused one who, I think, has for some time past been dreaming.

D. S.

Newtown, Montgomeryshire.

We are informed that the official at TARVIN, referred to at No. 1147, was popularly known in the parish as "The Cobber," under which title he would probably be found recorded in the Churchwardens' annual accounts of a half century ago.

EDITOR.

JUNE 16, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

June 16.—Lady Constance Gertrude Leveson Gower, first Duchess of Westminster, born 1834
 „ 17.—Chester brilliantly illuminated in celebration of the Elban Peace..... 1841

- „ 18.—Richard Massie, of Coddington and Pulford, Esquire, author of *Lyra Domestica*, born 1800
- „ 20.—First stone of the Propylæum, or Grand Entrance to Chester Castle, publicly laid by Colonel Trafford, of the Congleton Militia..... 1811
- „ 21.—Gang of coiners discovered in Upper Northgate-street, Chester, who made good their escape from justice 1775
- „ 22.—Walter Pynohbeck, Abbot of Chester, died 1240

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1182] LIVERPOOL AND LEIGH THREATENED BY THE ROUNDHEADS.

To-day we print two other Letters from the extensive series in the British Museum known as the BERRINGTON CORRESPONDENCE; and have again to thank DR. KENDRICK, of Warrington, for the transcripts, which were some years ago taken at his instance from the original records.

At the date of the first Letter it is evident PRINCE RUPERT was at CHESTER, although local accounts would seem to delay his arrival there until a week afterwards. BYRON, the Commander-in-chief, was at the time in charge of LIVERPOOL, which the enemy were rather ominously threatening. The second Letter is undated, but appears to refer to the same business; and we gather that General GORING from WIGAN, BYRON from LIVERPOOL, and MARROW from the Cheshire side, *vid* Warrington, operating in concert as suggested by BYRON, turned the Roundhead advance into a rebel rout.

“ May it please y^r Highness,—

The Rebels are marched out both of MANCHESTER & WARRINGTON, with what forces they can make, & give out theire designe is for this Towne; but theire forces are not such that they neede to bee apprehended heere, but I believe they intende to fortifye LEIGH, w^{ch} cannot well be hindred from hence; unless y^r Higness could send some force from CHESTER, eather to march towards WARRINGTON (where now few are left) or to pass over at HALEFORD (?) to strike betwixt them and home. I am confident, if a 1000 foot more could be joyned to those that might bee spared out of this garrison, it were an easy matter to beate them back againe into theire garrisons, w^{ch} beinge donne, this place would bee secured, & consequently CHESTER. howsoever, I suppose; it would be very much for the advantage of both these cuntryes, that a quarter were made at FRADESHAM; w^{ch} may now bee easily donne, & would bee both a greates ease & security to CHESTER,

& withall much amase the enemye. All w^{ch} I humbly submitt to y^r Highness consideration, & rest,

S^r, y^r Highness
most humble & most obliged
servant,

JOHN BYRON.

Liverpooles, August 11th,
1644.

For his Highness
Prince Rupert Prince
Palatine,
Chester.”

How Lord BYRON's energetic move sufficed to “much amase the enemye” is pretty clearly set forth in the Letter of Lord GORING's here following:—

“ Sir,—

The Rebbels have this evening attempted the passing over HALEFORD; and by MARROW charging them in the reare, and two of my regiments under Blakestone passing ever the ford, they were beaten, most of theyr foot killed or taken, and theyr horse were chased above 3 miles: theyr prisoners w^{ch} our men have taken say, they intend to send 400 men this night from WARRINGTON to LEBPOOLE by water, which was principally the occasion of this trouble to your highness from

y^r H's
most humble faythful
and most obedient servant,

GEORGE GORING.

Wigan.

To His Highness
The Prince.”

Poor Colonel MARROW enjoyed not long his share of the laurels. Returning to Chester after the operation above referred to, he some day later sallied out in force to turn the front of Sir WILLIAM BERRINGTON, who was entrenched near CROUGHTON HOUSE, to the north of Chester. Here an engagement ensued, and the brave soldier received a wound which soon afterwards proved fatal.

EDITOR.

[1186] HENRY GEE, MAYOR OF CHESTER.

(Completed from last week.)

Little or nothing is known in Cheshire of the family of GEE before it appears on the roll of the Shrievalty in the person of HENRY GEE himself, who was I fancy, by birth or at least by descent, a Yorkshire man. He was a middle-aged man, probably, when he settled at CHESTER; for in fifteen years after he served as Sheriff, I find his son, EDMUND GEE, in the like position of honor and responsibility; while from the last paragraph but one of old Henry's Will I gather that he had an elder son, RONDLE GEE, who probably settled at Manchester, and was the progenitor of the Gees of that then only second-rate town.

Alderman HENRY GEE died at Chester in 1545, living long enough to ‘see in’ the Reformation, but

without, it would seem, quite falling in with the new religion. He was buried in Holy Trinity Church, Watergate Street, where the following Inscription engraved on brass existed to his memory, when the old church was pulled down prior to the rebuilding:—

"Here vnder lyeth buried the body of
HENRY GEE twoo tymes mayer of this
Cetye of Chester, whyche d'cessyd the
vj day of September, An'o d'ni m'o v'o xlv'o,
on whois soulle ih'u haue mercy."

EDMUND GEE, the son, continued to reside in CHESTER until 1550, in which year he was advanced to the mayoralty. During his tenure of that high office, the PLAGUE broke out with great virulence; and he, busying himself in combating the dread distemper, ultimately fell a victim to it, as appears by a note in the *Vale Royall*, and by the following extract from my MS. List of Mayors and Sheriffs, from which venerable record I have often before quoted in THE SHEAF:—

"1550. This yeare EDMUNDE GEE died of the sweatinge sicknes, amongst manye others, and WILLIAM GOODMAN Succeded hym. a very deare yeare of corne and vittualls."

WILLIAM WEBB, in the *Vale Royall*, writing of Holy Trinity Church, says (page 47):—

"In the upper Ile by the Chancel, on the South side are two Burialls of famous Aldermen, the Father and Son, with these Memorials [first, Henry Gee, as above, and then]

'Here under-lieth buried the Body of Edw. [for Edmund] Gee, once Mayor of the City of Chester, and in the same year deceased the 18 day of June, Anno Dom. 1551, On whose &c.'

Arms, "gules, a drawn sword pointed upwards to the dexter point argent, guarded or."

I am inclined to think that the widow of HENRY GEE was not the mother of his sons, nor yet of his daughter ELIZABETH SHALCROSS; for she was young enough after his decease to be taken to wife by SIR WILLIAM CALVERLEY, of Calverley, co. York, and to have three children, daughters, by him. One of these daughters, Beatrix, became the wife of ROBERT HYDE, of Norbury and Hyde in this county; through whom was carried down the male line of that family for several generations.

Lady CALVERLEY (Mrs. GEE) was probably a native of CHESTER, being daughter of RICHARD SNEYD of Bradwell, co. Stafford, Recorder of Chester from 1512 to 1535. HENRY GEE, the Chester draper, must have been a handsome swain, or at least a man of means,—perhaps both,—or he would scarcely have proved an agreeable match for the daughter of a Recorder. She seems in any case to have preferred her first love, after all, to her last; for, thirty-four years afterwards we find that her bones were laid in the same grave with the two GEES, her first husband and his son. After the fashion of the day, the following rhyming inscription was set up in brass above her grave; and this also

remained visible in Holy Trinity Church until it was rebuilt; but has been, in the new church, relegated to an unworthy position in the tower. The inscription runs thus:—

"DAME . ELIZABETH . HEARE . INTERRED . IS .
THAT . LADIE . WAS . OF . LATE .
TO . CALVERLEY . KNIGHTE . EYT . FIRST . ESPOVSED .
TO . HENRYE . GEE . HER . MATE .
WHO . RYLED . HEARE . A . PATRON . BARN .
AS . CITTE . WELL . CAN . SHEWE .
THEY . SHE . IN . WYRSHIP . RYNE . HER . RACE .
AND . STILLE . IN . VERTEW . GREWE .
AND . SOE . DIED . JAN . 28/79."

Among the witnesses to HENRY GEE's Will, printed last week, was his "sister-in-law, Dame Jane Lee." She was a sister of ELIZABETH GEE, being another daughter of Recorder SNEYD; and was the wife of Sir JOHN LEGH, of KNUTSFORD BOOTHES, who was knighted with the army at Leith in 1544, and her descendants continued the LEGH line down to the beginning of the last century.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1184] A YOUNG MAYOR OF CHESTER.

Orion Adams' Weekly Journal was a Manchester newspaper current in 1752, the publisher being son of ROGER ADAMS, the starter and proprietor of the *Chester Courant*. In No. 25 of the first-named publication, dated June 23, 1752, is an account of the festivities at CHESTER and EATON on the 18th of June, when RICHARD GROSVENOR, Esq., son and heir of Sir ROBERT GROSVENOR, baronet, attained his majority. At a grand entertainment at EATON HALL, two hundred and seven dishes were served up at the great table, a large ox roasted whole in the park, fifty hogsheads of ale and beer drunk, besides nearly four hundred bottles of wine, and all sorts of punch. On the next evening, there was a brilliant ball, with elegant entertainments, at EATON HALL.

This young gentleman was early drawn into prominent public life. In two years after attaining his majority, he was a full-fledged M.P. for Chester: the year after that, his father died, and he succeeded to the baronetcy and estates. Five years pass by, and in 1760, at the early age of twenty-nine, he is elected Mayor of the city of Chester, and gives a sumptuous entertainment at the Exchange in celebration of the event. One who was present at the feast speaks of the young baronet as "deservedly the darling of the people," and tells us that the company at the dinner numbered nearly 400 persons; and that "the most remarkable part of the entertainment was that there were served up at once forty-two haunches of venison!" In the very next

year, **SIR RICHARD** was created a peer, with the title of **BARON GROSVENOR**; and in 1784 was advanced to the Earldom of Grosvenor, with a second title of Viscount Belgrave. Of his subsequent career there is little worth the telling, save that he survived to 1802; that he married the beautiful **Henrietta Vernon**, from whom he was divorced; that he was father of **Robert**, first **MARQUIS OF WESTMINSTER**; and that his full length portrait hangs, among others of his name, in the council chamber of the **CHESTER TOWN HALL**.

G. T.

[1185] **RECEPTION OF THE PENINSULAR HEROES,
COMBERMERE AND HILL.**

The anniversary of Waterloo falling in this week, the accompanying account of a previous reception at Chester, in August, 1814, of the heroes of that battle immediately after the Elban Peace, may be interesting to many of your readers:—

"The Grand Dinner to these illustrious noblemen (tickets 2 guineas each) was given on Monday last. At an early hour the bells of the Cathedral and all the Churches commenced ringing, and the Castle guns began to fire. Flags were hoisted on Mr. Mellor's, and Messrs. Walker, Maltby, and Co.'s shot towers, and on the steeples of St. Bridget's and St. Mary's churches.

At eleven o'clock a most imposing procession of the trade companies, clubs, &c., marched round the town, the gateways being draped with laurels and mottoes painted by Mr. Robt. Morris. The Corporation in scarlet and blue gowns, headed by a band of music; banners inscribed "Through Noble Deeds to Noble Honors;" a car or open carriage drawn by six greys, decorated with crimson and white ribbons, elegantly fitted up by Messrs. Parry and Truss; the London Royal Mail, drawn by six bays, its fitting up with flags and banners being highly honorable to Mr. Tomlinson, of the White Lion; other coaches and four; and a procession of gentlemen on horseback, moved down Bridge-street, up Handbridge to Overleigh Hall, where it awaited the arrival of the illustrious visitors.

At 2 o'clock **LORD HILL** drove through the crowd, and was not recognised, in a closed carriage. Great anxiety was felt for the arrival of **LORD COMBERMERE**; but, owing to the inhabitants of Halkin and Holywell drawing him in a carriage through those towns, he did not make his appearance till three o'clock, escorted by the Hawarden troop of Cavalry, commanded by Lieut. Boydell. He wore the splendid dress of a British General of Cavalry, and was decorated with several Military Orders. **Lord Hill** was in the full costume of a General of Infantry. In the area fronting Overleigh House they were complimented by Colonel Barnston in a most able speech.

The Cavalcade was then formed, the Bands of Music playing "See, the Conquering Hero comes!" and the multitude, amounting at least to 10,000,

rent the air with huzzas, and shouts of "Combermere and Hill for ever!"

On approaching the old Dee Bridge, the scene beggars description, the procession being literally wedged in by the crowd, forming one solid mass: their progress was slow, but on entering the City, each side of the street was lined with a detachment of the 22nd Foot. As the Car approached the Bridge Gate the guns of the Castle fired a Salute, and the Military presented arms. On the North side of the gate the procession stopped, and the Deputy Mayor addressed their Lordships, in the absence of the Chief Magistrate, Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, offering them the freedom of the City. They then proceeded up Bridge Street and Northgate Street to the Exchange: the Rows, and windows of houses were occupied by all the beauty and fashion of Cestria and an influx of elegantly dressed females from Wales and the adjoining Counties, waving their handkerchiefs.

The Town Hall was beautifully fitted up with festoons of laurel, mingled with flowers, and the floor was covered with green baize. Lord Combermere was seated on the right of the Deputy Mayor, and the Hero of Shropshire on the left. Mr. Finchett (Deputy Town Clerk) proceeded to administer the oaths of Allegiance, Supremacy, and Fidelity to the Earl of Chester, the Mayor, &c., &c.

The ceremony over, and the Heroes having made their Reply, they re-entered the car and moved to the Royal Hotel, where they appeared at the window, and addressed the immense multitude below. Lord Combermere was attended by his beautiful bride, and the widow of the late lamented Colonel Hill, of Hawkstone, stood on the left of Lord Hill. The pillars in front of the Hotel were ornamented with the national colours, hung in draperies, and festoons of flowers.

The Dinner was laid out in the Assembly Room, perhaps one of the handsomest rooms in the kingdom. At the upper end was a canopy, hung in crimson drapery à la Grecq, by Mr. Samuel Turner, of this city, in a style we have seldom seen equalled. The drapery was edged with gold fringe, and at the edge of the cornice a French Eagle disgraced (inverted), in burnished gold; in the centre, two sabres sheathed, indicative of the termination of the war, surmounted by a dove holding the olive of Peace; at the sides the colours of the Royal Cheshire Militia. The Deputy Mayor had on his right Lord Combermere; on his left hand, Lord Hill. The chairs of the Vice-Presidents were occupied by Colonel Wrench, Mr. Leeke, Mr. H. Potts, Mr. Dixon, and Capt. Henderson. The tables were beautifully decorated with military trophies and pacific emblems, by Mr. Farnworth,—and superbly laid out under the superintendence of Mrs. Jackson.

A fat buck was sent from Eaton by Earl Grosvenor, as was another from Oulton by J. Egerton, Esq. About 180 gentlemen sat down, the specially invited guests being:—Sir H. M. Mainwaring, Rev. W. Cotton, Sir Robert Hill, Lieut.

Superkrub, Lieut.-Col. M'Neight, and all the Officers of the 22nd Foot. A number of toasts were drunk, loyal and patriotic songs were sung, and it was a late hour before the company broke up. We cannot close this sketch without adding that, to the ability and perseverance of an immortal Ministry, to the skill and valour of our gallant soldiery, are we indebted for the return of Peace after a desolating War, for the prospect of Plenty after long years of privation and misery. May we not say with the poet, "Esto Perpetua!"—"Be it Eternal!"

Newton.

H.

Queries.

[1186] CHESHIRE LAMPREYS AND SNIGS.

We have most of us read of a distinguished character having once died of a surfeit of Lampreys. Has this royal fish ever been known as an article of commerce in Cheshire,—I mean as being taken from any of the rivers in this locality? I have never myself met with it in any of our local fish-markets. Is it not a very near relative to the Cheshire "snig"? L. L.

[1187] ROUNDHEAD PARSONS AT CHESTER.

While in London the other day I spent some time in the Public Record Office in Fetter Lane, and noticed, in a volume of the STATE PAPERS on Domestic Affairs, the two following entries:—

"1653, Sept. 1. COUNCIL OF STATE. Day's Proceedings.—2. Order on petition of JOHN PEMBERTON, minister of JOHN's parish, CHESTER, that Capt. FALCONBRIDGE pay him 56l. 5s., being $\frac{1}{2}$ of 75l. due to him, for $\frac{1}{2}$ of a year ending Dec. 25, 1650, for officiating in the said place, notwithstanding the order of restriction from Council."

And again,—

"1653, Dec. 10. Order from COUNCIL OF STATE to — LEIGH, minister at CHESTER. To appear before Council, of 8 Feb., to answer matters objected against him about a sermon preached on 5 Nov. before the magistracy of CHESTER."

Is anything further known of the circumstances to which the above entries refer?

T. C. H.

Pembroke College, Cambridge.

[1188] BOWBEDD, CHESHIRE.

In a document at the British Museum, dated in the seventeenth century, mention is incidentally made of a BOWBEDD HOUSE, in this county. The names of old houses all over Cheshire are fairly familiar to me: but surely I must be right in believing that there is no such House known, and so called, now? If so, where?

H. S. A.

Replies.

GEORGE CLARKE.

[No. 1120.—April 28.]

GEORGE CLARKE, Governor of New York in 1736, was the son of George Clarke, of Swanswick, co. Somerset, Esq. He married Anne, daughter and coheirs of EDWARD HYDE, of HYDE, near Stockport, Esq., the representative of an old Cheshire family, from whom the Hydes, Earls of Clarendon, descended. Mr. CLARKE, after leaving New York, lived at Chester, and was buried in the Cathedral.

Governor Clarke had four sons and five daughters. His representative in our day was EDWARD HYDE CLARKE, of Hyde, Esq., who died 25th Dec., 1873 without issue, leaving a widow, who now enjoys her late husband's estate.

Withington.

J. P. EARWAKER.

GOVERNOR CLARKE, as he was usually styled by his friends, long after he had quitted NEW YORK, and fallen back into the rank of a private citizen and Cheshire squire, resided in CHESTER for several years previous to his death in 1760. His Chester abode was somewhere towards the east end of White-friars, but I have not been able to exactly mark the house. He was perhaps attracted to the old city through the THANKES, his wife's aunt PENELOPE HYDE having married the Rev. JOHN THANK, Prebendary of the Cathedral, where he ministered afterwards for nearly half a century. Mrs. Clarke's sister, Mrs. Penelope Hyde, resided with them at Chester, and a daughter of the ex-Governor's was married at the Bishop's Chapel in the Cathedral in 1750.

The official Registers of the Cathedral contain the two following entries:—

"George Clark, Esq., late Governor of New York, buried Jany. 19, 1760."

"Penelope Hyde, Spinster, buried Mar. 23, 1766."

On the south-west pier of the Cathedral tower, facing into St. Oswald's church, is the following white marble tablet to Governor Clarke's memory. Before the Restoration changes, this tablet was affixed to the rear of the sedilia at the north-eastern end of the south aisle of the Choir at the entrance to the Lady Chapel, and I presume it was somewhere thereabout that his body was laid:—

TO THE MEMORY OF
GEORGE CLARKE OF HYDE ESQUIRE
WHO WAS FORMERLY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK
AND AFTERWARDS
BECAME RESIDENT IN THIS CITY.
HE DIED JANUARY XII., MDCCCLX,
AGED LXXXIV YEARS,
AND WAS INTERRED IN THIS CHAPEL.

T. HUGHES.

JUNE 23, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

June 23.—Queen Victoria proclaimed at Chester High Cross by the Mayor, Thomas Dixon, Esq.	1837
„ 24.—First Roman Catholic Ordination at Chester, since the Reformation, held at St. Werburgh's Roman Catholic Church	1877
„ 25.—Thomas Stanley, Esq., of Alderley, created a Baronet.....	1660
„ 26.—Execution at Chester of Wilkinson, Yarwood, and Burgess, three flatmen plying on the Ellesmere and Chester Canal	1813
„ 28.—The Rev. Philip Henry, father of the well-known Matthew Henry, of Chester, buried at Whitchurch	1696
„ 29.—Lord Robert Grosvenor and John Jervis, Esq., Q.C., returned a second time M.P.s for Chester	1841

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1190] REFUSAL OF KNIGHTHOOD.

The custom of one age is often the exception of another. In the present day the degree of Knighthood is in such favour, that vanity and purse-pride will go to even extreme lengths, so they may but obtain it; and yet, soon after the Order was first established, we find honest RANDLE HOLME, Alderman of CHESTER, actually paying Ten Pounds, in 1631, to save the indignity of being dubbed "Sir Knight." The following Receipt for the money is copied from the *Historical Collections concerning Chester*, by R. Holme, forming Harleian MS. No. 2022, and the fact is referred to in Hemingway's *Chester*, Vol. 2, p. 357:—

"Com'. eestr: 15 oct. an'o RR Carol': Angl', & 'o.
7'o: An'o 1631.

Received the day & years above said of Randle Holme, cittizen & Alderm' of the s'd citty, the sume of ten pounds, And is in discharge of a composition made with my selfe & other his Maiesties commiss'ers for his contempt in not attending & receiuing the Order of K't. hood at his highness coronation, according to the Law in that case provided. I say rec'd the sum'e of.....x li

by me, G: BOOTH."

The receipt is impressed in the centre with an ancient seal of some centuries earlier date, bearing the following legend:—"S'. RIC: FIL': RIC: LE CAVL'."

The Temple, London. B. WILBRAHAM JONES.

[1191] THE LORDS OF MOLD.

There are several documents which serve to illustrate the history of MOLD and the Stanley family.

The series commences in 1448, with the grant of HAWARDEN and MOLD by Henry VI. to Sir Thomas Stanley, and I subjoin a translation of the original. It is worth noticing that "mines of coals" are expressly mentioned in this grant:—

"Be it remembered that, on the fifteenth day of October in the year under written, this Writ was delivered to the Chancellor of England at Westminster, to be executed.

HENRY, by the Grace of God King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland, To the most Reverend Father in Christ John, Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of all England, and of the Apostolic See Legate, our Chancellor, greeting. Whereas We of our special grace, for the good and acceptable service which our beloved and faithful Knight THOMAS STANLEY, Controller of our Household, has bestowed upon us, and daily does not cease to bestow, and for certain causes Us specially moving, have given and granted to the same THOMAS the Castle, lordships, and manors of HAWARDYN and MOHANDRES-DALE, with the rents, services, meadows, feedings, pastures, mines of coals, and advowsons of Churches; together with the reversions of annuities to any person or persons, by Us or by Our Progenitors of the Castle, Lordships, and Manors aforesaid for term of life granted, after the death of the same persons or person when they shall fall in; and with all other and singular their appurtenances whatsoever, to the said Castle, lordships and manors, in any wise belonging or pertaining. To have and to hold to the same THOMAS and his heirs male of the body of the same THOMAS lawfully begotten for ever, without anything to Us or Our heirs therefore yielding, albeit that express mention of the true yearly value of the said Castle, lordships, manors, and other the premises in these presents by no means be made, according to the form of the statutes therefore enacted or any the gifts or grants by Us or by Our Progenitors to the forenamed THOMAS heretofore made, or any statutes, ordinances, or acts to the contrary enacted made or provided, notwithstanding. We command you that Letters thereupon, under our great seal in due form, you do cause to be made. Given under Our Privy Seal at the Castle of Wyndesore, the 14th day of October, in the year of our reign the twenty-second."

Sir THOMAS STANLEY, the faithful servant of Henry VI., was summoned to Parliament as *Baron Stanley* in 1456. He died in 1458-9, and was succeeded by his more celebrated son, Sir THOMAS STANLEY, who became subsequently the first EARL of DERBY of the Stanley family.

"The Castle, Manor, and Lordship of Hope" are included in a grant made by Richard III. to "Sir Thomas Stanley, Knight, Lord Stanley, and his son and heir apparent, Sir George Stanley, Knight, Lord

L'Estrange," and the heirs male of Sir *Thomas Stanley*. The Letters Patent by which this grant was made are dated Sept. 17th, 1484, and comprise 15 or 16 other manors and various lands situate in different counties. The manor and vill of NORTHWICH, and the lands at MACCLESFIELD and CHRISTILTON, which had belonged to the Duke of Buckingham, may be here mentioned as forming a portion of this truly gigantic gift.

These letters patent are set out *verbatim* at page 261 of "*Sir Thomas Raymond's Reports*" in his account of the case of *Murrey v. Eyton*, which I shall again allude to. They recite the faithful services of Lord *Stanley* and his son; who, within less than a year from that time, transferred the Crown of England to another Sovereign!

The battle of Bosworth was fought on the 22nd of August, 1485, and on the 27th of the following October, Lord *Stanley* was created EARL OF DERBY by his victorious stepon.

The FLINTSHIRE Estates of the *Stanleys* descended with the earldom. And when on the death of *Ferdinando*, the 5th Earl, in 1594, a controversy arose between the three daughters of *Ferdinando* and his brother and successor, *William*, the 6th Earl, an Act of Parliament settling the disputes provided that these Estates should continue in the male line of the *Stanley* family. This Act was passed in 1606, and so much of it as relates to HOPS is given in the report I have referred to by Sir *Thomas Raymond*.

James, the 7th Earl, who succeeded his father *William*, in 1642, is deservedly celebrated for his heroic attachment to the Royal Cause. After the battle of Worcester, which was fought on Sept. 3rd, 1651, he placed Charles II. under the care of the *Pendrils* at *Boscobel*, where he himself had previously been safely sheltered. Being almost immediately afterwards made a prisoner, he was taken to CHESTER, and tried there by a Court martial on the 1st of October, and beheaded at Bolton a fortnight afterwards. After his execution his Estates were confiscated by the Parliament. On another occasion I will describe more fully how MOLD and the two adjoining manors were disposed of after their confiscation.

Gresford.

WM. TREVOR PARKINS.

Notes.

[1192] THREE NAIADS AT PARKGATE.

Lines written on seeing three fair Ladies come out from bathing at a Cheshire Watering Place, at the end of last century.

Bright was the morn, the season gay,
Kind Sol diffused his genial heat,
When just arising from the sea
I spied three beauties at PARKGATE.

The first, whose graceful air and mien
Made an impression on my fancy,
I thought was Jove's imperial Queen,
But mortals call her lovely NANCY.
A blooming beauty next appears,
Surrounded by the Loves and Graces,
"It must be Venus!" CRITCHLEY swears,
"I know her well, through all her paces."
"Had she her Cestus and her Dove,
I'd think so too, as well as you;
But if she's not the Queen of Love
It can be none but charming SUN!"
Upon the margin of the flood
Like her who vied for beauty's prize,
The third,—an English Pallas, stood,—
I saw her Egis in her eyes.
The faultless form we all commend,
But none her name, save that, could guess,
Till Clio whispered,—"Honest friend,
Have you forgotten blooming HESS?"
Since Albion's Isle was famed for beauty,
Throughout her inexhausted store
None e'er were seen, from head to shoe-tye,
Brighter than *these* who grace this shore!
But what is yet still more uncommon
And yet more strictly true, you'll find,
Though fairest 'mongst those born of woman
Their greatest merit is their mind!

The foregoing Lines may perhaps be familiar to other eyes than mine, and if so, the names of the three beauties may yet be recovered and placed on record. I have some reason to believe that they belonged to the allied Cheshire families of LEE, TOWNSHEND, and BALDWIN; and that the last of the three was the then Miss HESTER TOWNSHEND of Wincham, in due time wife of the Rev. Richard Massie, Rector of St. Bridget's, Chester, but afterwards of Eccleston.

M. L. T.

[1193] THE QUEEN'S ACCESSION.

Forty three years ago this day there was a loyal gathering in CHESTER Town Hall, at the invitation of the then Mayor, our late venerable and much venerated fellow-citizen, Mr. THOMAS DIXON, of Littleton. There were no telegraphs, nor was even the "Grand Junction Railway" opened for traffic in those days; consequently news that would in a few minutes be flashed from one end of the kingdom to the other, and in a few hours to the nethermost corners of the empire, now, had at that time to find its slow and tortuous way from town to town and village to village by means of the old-fashioned mail coach or carrier's waggon, and so was often several days in transit.

It was so at CHESTER. King WILLIAM breathed his last at Windsor Castle on Tuesday morning, June 20th, at half-past 2; and as rapidly as possible, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lord Chamberlain sped them to Kensington Palace, to announce to the young PRINCESS VICTORIA that she was now QUEEN OF GREAT BRITAIN—

an incident beautifully rendered on canvas this year at the Royal Academy by H. T. Wells, R.A. The Privy Council was hastily assembled, and soon the guns at the Tower proclaimed the fact to the citizens of London, "The King is dead,—God save the Queen!" Copies of the Proclamation were got out with all speed, and despatched far and wide throughout the country; one reaching this city through the hands of Mr. HUMBERTON, the Vice Chamberlain, early on the 21st, by whom it was delivered immediately to the Mayor.

On the following morning, the 22nd, the MAYOR issued the Placard, a copy of which, preserved religiously ever since, lies now before me:—

"PROCLAMATION
of the
QUEEN.

THOMAS DIXON, Esq., MAYOR.

CITY OF CHESTER TO WIT.

Whereas the MAYOR of this City has received a Warrant, from the Council Chamber at Kensington, dated 20th day of June, 1837, commanding him Publicly and Solemnly to PROCLAIM, in this City, her present Majesty, VICTORIA, QUEEN OF THESE REALMS.

Notice is Hereby Given,
That such PROCLAMATION will be made on FRIDAY (To-morrow), the 23rd instant.

The MAYOR, therefore, respectfully requests the attendance of his Fellow Citizens, the Clergy, and Inhabitants of the City, to meet him and the Corporation in the TOWN HALL, to-morrow morning, FRIDAY, at Twelve o'clock; from whence the Procession will move to the HIGH CROSS, where the Proclamation will be first Read; from thence to the Bridge Gate; from thence to the East Gate; from thence to the North Gate; and from thence to the Water Gate, when the Procession will disperse, and the Proclamation will afterwards be read to the Soldiers on the ROODEE.

By order of the Mayor,
FINCHETT-MADDOCK,
Town Clerk.

CHESTER, 22nd June, 1837."

The *Chester Courant* of the 27th June thus tells the story:—

"PROCLAMATION OF HER MAJESTY
QUEEN VICTORIA THE FIRST.

The accession to the throne of these realms of our interesting and youthful Queen has been hailed by the citizens of Chester with every mark of respect and loyalty. Twelve o'clock on Friday was appointed for the Proclamation, and a notice was accordingly issued inviting the citizens, clergy, and inhabitants generally to join the Civic Body at the Town Hall, at the above hour.

Shortly after twelve, Major FADDY, of the Royal Artillery, as the senior officer in command, rode into the space opposite the *White Lion* at the head of his brigade, and of the two companies of the 33rd in garrison, with band playing and colours flying; where they formed a square to await the presence of

the Mayor and the few members of the Corporation who did attend. The scene attracted large crowds of people, and the interest was greatly increased by their being joined by the clergy, citizens, and schools, who had been engaged in Laying the First Stone of the New Church, and came up with band playing, and numerous flags flying, belonging to the different Friendly Societies in the city and neighbourhood. The Mayor, &c., having made their appearance, the procession moved, led by the military, which was succeeded by the city band, the schools, the clergy, the citizens, &c. Upon arriving at the High Cross, the Proclamation was read by Mr. T. Finchett Maddock (in his father's absence); at the conclusion of which loud cheers were given by the military, responded to by the citizens, and, indeed, by all present, in shouts of "Long live Queen Victoria!" and the waving of handkerchiefs from the windows and Bows, where numbers of ladies gave a grace to the scene.

The same ceremony was repeated at the four Gates, after which the procession moved to the Roodey, where the civic authorities and the clergy and citizens occupied the Race Course, and the military were drawn up to the left of the Grand Stand, which was crowded with ladies and other company, as were the Walls also nearly as gaily attired as usually in the race week. The Flintshire Cavalry, in their review clothing, at this point made their appearance on the Roodey, and were drawn up in column in front of the Grand Stand. They and the Infantry and Artillery then went through various manoeuvres. At the conclusion the military and Yeomanry were drawn in a square, the Royal Standard of England alone floating to the heavens, when Major FADDY, uncovered, read the Proclamation to the Soldiers and Yeomanry; who, at the conclusion, simultaneously rent the air with "nine times nine," which was responded to by the company on the Grand Stand and Walls with repeated cheers more. The civic authorities then moved off, followed by the Military and Yeomanry; closing a truly animated scene, and one that proves loyalty is not yet at a discount in CHESTER, though it does return a Town Council who pays it so little respect as they evidenced on this occasion."

G. T.

[1194] CHRIST CHURCH, CHESTER.

On Friday morning, at half-past ten, CHANCELLOR RAIKES and several of the Clergy, with a number of citizens, met at the Diocesan School, to proceed to Lay the First Stone of the New Church at NEWTOWN, in the suburbs of this city, where a new district has sprung up, whose want of Church accommodation had been severely felt.

The whole sum needed was speedily raised: CHARLES POTTS, Esq., also liberally presented a piece of land for the site at the junction of St. Anne-street and Lyon-street, through which communication is readily had to the future CHRIST CHURCH.

The procession, led by an excellent band, men bearing banners, with the children of the Blue Coat School, the

clergy and contributors, two and two, reached the spot about eleven o'clock. An appropriate hymn was then sung by the children, after which the Rev. CHANCELLOR RAIKES, with the assistance of Mr. Kelly, of this city, mason (the builder of the Church), applied the mortar, on which the stone was lowered and adjusted, the coins of his late Majesty being deposited in the cavity. The Rev. Chancellor then delivered a most impressive prayer, the children sang another appropriate hymn, three cheers were given, and the procession then moved on to the EXCHANGE, and joined that of the Mayor in Proclaiming Her Majesty QUEEN VICTORIA.—*Cheshire Courant*, June 27, 1837. G. T.

Queries.

[1195] EVE'S ACRE, FLINTSHIRE.

Can any of your readers, fairly acquainted with the topography of the adjoining county, inform me in what parish EVE'S ACRE is situate,—whether a mansion of any size and antiquity occupies the site,—and by what name it is known in the present day? The place I am in search of bore the name of EVE'S ACRE in the seventeenth century. L. L.

[1196] OLIVER CROMWELL'S SWORD.

There is a tradition in my family that it once possessed the Sword of this redoubtable soldier and statesman, and that it remained as an heir-loom at the ancient seat of my kindred, BREWER'S HALL, near Chester, recently as I understand somewhat wantonly pulled down. I remember being, when a child, conducted through the mansion, then a mere farm house, but saw nothing of this Cromwell sword? Is it known where the weapon is now preserved?

London.

J. A. WRIGHT.

Replies.

[1197] THE ISLE OF CHESTER.

[No. 824.—Sept. 17, 1879]

The City of CHESTER was never an island, save in the artificial and military sense pointed out by our Stockport correspondent; nor has it ever been so styled in history, so far as a long course of reading enables us to hazard an opinion.

But in the youth of our existence as a nation, ere yet the Norman had set foot on its soil, the whole country on the north-east side of CHESTER was largely under water at every high tide, owing to the River Mersey

constantly overflowing its southern banks. Evidence of this survives in the nature of the soil itself, as well as in the names of the local townships, such as INCE, the three TRAFFORDS, STAMFORD, HOOLE, &c., on the River GOWY.

In TRAFFORD stands the parish and church of PLEMSTALL, and near by its venerable church is the perhaps equally ancient Holme farm. It is to this spot that FULLER, in his *Church History* (book ii., p. 121), refers in the following paragraph, which will also satisfactorily answer our correspondent's Query:—

"PLEGMUND, an Eremita in the 'Isle of Chester,' now called PLEGMUNDHAM, tutor to K. Alfred, was by him preferred to be Archbishop of Canterbury, then a miserable place, as hardly recovered from the late sacking of the Danes. By the king's command Plegmund called the Clergy of England together, and made a collection of almes to be sent to Rome and Jerusalem; and ATHELW, Archbishop of York, was employed in the journey, going personally to the foresaid places, to see the contribution there faithfully delivered and equally distributed."

On that little holme or island on the margin of the GOWY, on the site of the hermitage hallowed as the retreat of the learned PLEGMUND, there the pious villagers erected their parish church, calling it lovingly by his name—PLEGMUNDSTALL, the house of Plegmund: There alone must we look for, and there alone shall we find, that "Isle of Chester," which old Fuller and our fair correspondent have each in their turn assisted to perpetuate in local memory. EDITOR.

[1198] THE ARCHDEACONRY OF CHESTER.

[No. 1045.—Feb. 25.]

I have just found at the Episcopal Registry of CHESTER the following original Letter, written, apparently, in answer to a somewhat similar enquiry to that of "H. S. A.," as above. The information it conveys is interesting; and if entirely reliable, and the books be still in existence there, it is clear that the stores at Lichfield, properly ransacked, would throw no end of light on pre-Reformation church life in the Diocese of Chester.

The Letter is addressed to Bishop EDMUND KERNE, and is as follows:—

"My Lord,

Upon application to the Register's Office [Lichfield], in obedience to Your Lordship's command, for copies of any thing relative to the ARCHDEACONRY OF CHESTER; I find there are 14 or 15 books down to the time of the separation of it from this Diocese, extremely close written, & almost every word abbreviated, so that I guess each book would take a person up near a quarter of a year in transcribing; & not only so, but the books are written in such an obscure hand, that perhaps there are not above two persons in the Diocese capable of copying them with exactness.

1. George Venables, of Agdon,
gent. non ap: 5*li*.
 1. Richard Massey, of Sale,
Esq'r, Mr. Jeffery Cart-
wright non ap: 5*li*.
 1. John Danyell, of Dasbury,
gent., John Pickering of
ye Lodg, Esq'r ap*ears*
 1. John Moores, of Thelwall,
Esq'r non ap: 5*li*.
 1. Nathanyell Robinson, of
Mobb'ly, Lawrance Rob-
inson, gentleman, and
Mr. Colthurst Samuel Witter
 2. The Vicor of Budworth,
the Vicar of Bunckhorne,
and Parson of Grappen-
hall non ap*ear*: 5*li*.
 1. The Parson of Mobberly,
Vicor of Bosterne, and
Vicor of Bowdon non ap*ear*: 5*li*.
 1. The Parson of Ashton vpon
Mercy Banke, Parsons of
Limme and Warburton... noe ap: 5*li*.
 - BUCKLOWs Hundred, for-
merly made of the
Trayned Bands, 84 men,
which, with 16 out of
Edesbury Hundred, made
a Compleat 100 Men
 - MACCLESFIELD hundred,
108 men, which three
Joyned with Northwich
Hundred 103 Men
 - NORTHWICH Hundred made
77, w'ch, with 20 out of
Edesbury Hundred, and
the three men out of
Bosley in Macclesfield
Hundred, made 100 Men
 - NAMPTWICH Hundred 100 Men
 - BRAXTON Hundred, 86, with
14 out of Edesbury
Hundred 100 Men"
- (To be continued.)

EDITOR.

[1200] VICTUALLING SOLDIERS FOR IRELAND.

As I have shewn in previous articles on the Irish troubles of Elizabeth's reign, it was no small responsibility that a citizen of CHESTER assumed when he put on the robe and chain of the mayoralty in those disorganised days. At that period the city was seldom free from the presence of troops, either on the march or waiting for transport; and the commissariat of these forces, as well as their control before the law, fell almost entirely to the charge of Mr. Mayor. The Document given below is from the Original in my own collection, and bears the autograph signature of the Mayor, attested also by his *secretum* or official seal, a sword between two wheat sheaves. WEBB, in the *Vale Royal*, under the same year, 1601, records thus:

"Many Souldiers were this year sent into Ireland:" in Tyrone's rebellion, indeed, the Queen's Government had for years a difficult bone to pick, but he was brought to book effectually in the following year:—

"Decimo die Novembris, 1601.

Received by me JOHN RATCLIFFE, maior of the citty of CHESTER, of EDMUND GAMULL, of the saied citty, Alderman, by vertue of l'res from the right honorable the lo: Buokhurst, lo: high Thr'er of England to me directed, the some of Twoe hundred and eight poundes and tenn shillings of lawfull money of England towards the dyetings by land, victuallings by sea, & transportac'on of 1000 men & 76 horses, transported from this port to Lough-foile & Carickfergus, which saide some of CCvij*li*. xs. is to be repaied vnto David Cooke, of London, to & for the vse of the saied Edmund Gamuell, or to the bringer hereof in his name, by such as the said lo: Thr'er shall appointe. Dated the daie & yeare aboue written. R'd the some of.....CCvij*li*. xs.

JOHN RATCLIFFE, maior."

Mr. Ratcliff in his year of Mayoralty had the unusual distinction of seeing his son and namesake serve the office of Sheriff; and his grandson of the same name ultimately became Recorder of his native city during the Interregnum, viz., from 1653 to 1660.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1201] A MERSEY "ATALANTA."

The following extract from the *Anthologia Hibernica* for March, 1793, p. 238, may perhaps be worthy of a corner in THE SHEAF, as shewing something like the probable fate of the "Atalanta":—

"March 20th, 1793.—Letter from LIVERPOOL.

This afternoon, about two o'clock, a most dreadful accident happened here. As the "Pelican" privateer, belonging to NICHOLAS ASHTON, Esq., of this town, was cruising in the river, by a sudden gust of wind she overset, and instantly went to the bottom. She was manned with ninety-four choice seamen, and had on board when the accident happened upwards of forty persons, exclusive of her crew, out of which number only thirty-two have been saved! From one of those that were saved we are informed it was owing to the guns being loose the misfortune happened; that when the gust of wind heeled her the weather guns broke through the lee ports, and she instantly filled with water. Her masts at low water mark appear about half out of the water."

A similar account is given the *Gentleman's Magazine* of the same date.

Dublin,

W. MONK GIBBON, LL.D.

[1202] CHARLES DICKENS IN CHESTER.

In the "Letters of Charles Dickens," edited by his sister-in-law and eldest daughter, and recently published in two volumes, there is in Volume II., p. 273, a characteristic letter addressed to the latter under the name of Mamie, and written from Chester on the day of his public reading there. Owing to its local allusions alone it is well worthy of a place in **THE SHEAF**.

"Chester, Tuesday, Jan. 22nd, 1867.

My dearest Mamie,

We came over here from Liverpool at eleven this forenoon. There was a heavy swell in the Mersey breaking over the boat; the cold was nipping, and all the roads we saw as we came along were wretched. We find a very moderate let here; but I am myself rather surprised to know that a hundred and twenty stalls have made up their minds to the undertaking of getting to the hall. This seems to be a very nice hotel [The Queen, at the Railway Station], but it is an extraordinarily cold one. Our reading for to-night is 'Marigold' and 'Trial.' With amazing perversity the local agent said to Dolby: "They hoped that Mr. Dickens *might* have given them 'The Boy at Mugby'!"

Barton, the gasman who succeeded the man who sprained his leg, sprained his leg yesterday! And that, not at his work, but in running downstairs at the hotel. However, he has hobbled through it so far, and I hope he will hobble on, for he knows his work.

I have seldom seen a place look more hopelessly frozen up than this place does. The hall [the Music Hall] is like a Methodist Chapel in low spirits, and with a cold in its head. A few blue people shiver at the corners of the streets. And this house, which is outside the town, looks an ornament on an immense twelfth cake baked for 1847.

I am now going to the fire to try and warm myself, but have not the least expectation of succeeding. The sitting-room has two large windows in it, down to the ground and facing due east. The adjoining bedroom (mine) has also two large windows in it, down to the ground and facing due east. The very large doors are opposite the large windows, and I feel as if I were something to eat in a pantry."

In two letters written a couple of days afterwards from Birmingham, to his sister-in-law and daughter respectively, he mentions in one

"At Chester we read in a snowstorm and a fall of ice. I think it was the worst weather I ever saw. Nevertheless the people were enthusiastic."

And in the other:—

"It was the most tremendous night I ever saw at Chester."

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.
Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

Queries.

[1203] EDMUND BOTHE, OR BOOTH.

Was the above-named, who held some office of repute in (I think) the household of King Henry VIII., of Cheshire or of Lancashire birth? If the former, I should like to know if there be any particulars of interest now available relative to him. L. L.

[1204] BURT, THE PORTRAIT PAINTER.

Could any of your correspondents give particulars as to the family and parentage of Mr. BURT, an artist, who resided in Crane Street, Chester, some 55 years ago. He was a very good Miniature Painter; Mr. THOS. BAILLY, of whom I may next week have something to say, was one of his pupils. He was, at the time I refer to, well known as a Drawing Master, and as such visited PARKGATE weekly. His mode of conveyance was one of the old-fashioned hobby-horses then in vogue, the wheels being specially made for him of wooden barrel hoops for lightness. He painted cabinet portraits in oil, in addition to his more popular series of local celebrities in water colours, and made some very good copies of heads from old masters. From his style of painting and touch, I am inclined to believe that the two small portraits in oil at present hanging over the fire-place in the Free Library Reading Room, are by him; and would recommend that, for their preservation, they be glazed and hung at the side of the door of the room, next the window, for in time the heat of the fire will of necessity injure them. He made several excellent copies in oil after Teniers, of which I had a couple some years ago. B. O.

[1205] THE CHURCH OF ST. CHAD'S, CHESTER.

Burrowing among the old literary remains of a very ancient Chester man, who has long since departed from this every-day world to a much better one, I fell in with a scrap that caused me some wonder—"Here stood the ancient church of ST. CHAD'S." Where? was the natural enquiry; and seeing that the scribe himself gave no further information upon the point, I had to betake me to books, therein to search for any hint that could guide me to the spot where ST. CHAD'S CHURCH had once stood. All I can find is that, according to our Chester antiquary—THOMAS HUGHES—such a church existed, "so late as the seventeenth century," somewhere about the Linen Hall, but, he adds, "the place thereof is now nowhere to be found." At the moment I gave up all hope of ever arriving at a knowledge of the truth in this matter; but "a happy thought" suggested to me that some contributor to **THE SHEAF** may be able to add somewhat to our store of information about this old church, and I am, therefore, induced to ask you to insert this enquiry in the columns of that most

useful work. MR. HUGHES states that the church is referred to in *old deeds*: where these deeds are now to be found is perhaps hard to determine, but it is probable that they may give a clue to the exact site upon which the Church once stood; and that, with such a guide to further investigation, we may arrive step by step at the history of its foundation, and how it came to pass that the ancient church ceased to be. At all events, the subject has its interest to antiquaries, and I most respectfully commend it to their notice.

A CESTRIAN.

Replies.

[1206] VOYAGE BETWEEN PARKGATE AND DUBLIN.

[Nos. 403, 554.—Dec. 11, 1878, March 5, 1879.]

In reference to the quotation given at the last of the above numbers, relative to the delay of the *Dorset* yacht, in sailing from PARKGATE to DUBLIN; on looking over an old number of the *Gentleman's Magazine* for April, 1732, I came across the strange coincidence of not the *Dorset* yacht being detained on the journey, but no less a personage than His Excellency the Duke of *Dorset* himself:—

"CHESTER, Sunday, April 30.

Yesterday the Duke and Duchess of DORSET landed at PARKGATE in good health. The yacht sail'd from DUBLIN on the 23rd. Next morning arose a violent storm; which obliged them, not being able to reach *Holyhead*, to bear away for the *Isle of Man*: but there was no landing without the utmost danger; so they kept off to sea again, and were driven to *Carick Fergus* in the North of Ireland. Their Graces landed and stay'd three Days and sailed again the 28th and had a fine Passage hither. Part of their retinue, who sailed the 25th from *Dublin*, arrived here the 27th; which occasioned a Report that his Grace was cast away."

Ledsham.

R. M.

[1207] QUILLET.

[Nos. 1137, 1162.—May 12, 26.]

This is not a mere hap-hazard or meaningless term, such as are, alas! too many, of our modern-spun English words. In Devonshire, *quillet* used to mean a small croft, a corner-field, or grass-yard; and that was the character and indeed the name of the land on which "THE QUILLERS" in the Liverpool Road, Chester, was built within quite recent memory.

But *quillet* means also, in our northern dialect, a long narrow strap of land, of which there may be many in one large field, and the width of one, or at most two, "furrows." Such land has usually at some remote time

been common land, apportioned out to individual cottagers of the adjoining township or village, so that each might, in more primitive times than ours, plough his own allotment, alongside of his neighbours. No doubt, too, there would have existed in this way a sort of generous emulation on each cotter's part to make his own furrow more workmanlike and productive than those adjoining. These intakes were wholly unfenced, mere-stones at the corners alone marking the boundaries of each *quillet*.

There are, or recently were, close to the border town of HOLT, on the Welsh side of the DEE, a number of those *quillies*, allotted to and cultivated by the poorer freemen of that small borough. The Corporation of CHESTER, too, held some Charity Lands at ISCOYD, and in the adjacent township of HOLT, under the will of VALENTINE BROUGHTON, 16th June, 1608. One of the fields included in this bequest is divided longitudinally into, I think, 18 *quillies*, each alternate strip or furrow belonging to another owner. The difficulty of cultivating so intermixed a property is met in this instance by one tenant farming the lot; and the value of the produce is thus secured in as equitable a manner as possible.

"Prythee, keep up thy quillies," writes Shakspeare in *Othello*, though in quite a different sense: it is perhaps questionable, however, whether we should still "keep up these quillies" of land, seeing that their retention cannot be favourable to economic farming.

T. HUGHES.

[1208] CHESHIRE LAMPREYS AND SNIGS.

[No. 1186.—June 16.]

Sixty years ago LAMPREYS were caught at INCE, and brought to CHESTER market in panniers by a woman on horseback. They were also taken sometimes in the DEE. It is a distinct fish from a "snig," which is a small eel. Lampreys have seven holes below the ears; that part and the head were supposed to contain poison. It is a very rich fish, and always stewed in port wine.

Spring Hill.

E. A. B.

In reply to "L.L.'s" query, LAMPREYS are very like eels or "snigs" in appearance; they run from one to three pounds in weight, are a migratory fish, and visit the fresh water in May and June. There are plenty of them in the DEE, and they are well known about HOLT. I have seen them as high up as ERBISTOCK. They adhere to the stones by their snouts, and are generally caught with a wooden instrument called a "lamprey tong," with which they are detached from the stones.

There is another kind, called the "river lamprey," about eight inches in length, locally known as "Nanny Nine Holes (they really have but seven);" these are found in most of the brooks and rivers in this country.

Lampreys may be delicate eating enough, but their appearance is certainly, in this respect, not very much in their favour; perhaps they are better than they look.

LANDWOR.

Wrexham.

[1209] ROUNDHEAD PARSONS AT CHESTER.

[No. 1187.—June 16.]

The two Ministers referred to in the Query were Vicars of St. John's parish, Chester, during the Interregnum.

JOHN PEMBERTON.—This person was Minister of Congleton in 1647-8 (Congleton Records). In June, 1648, he signed himself "Pastor of Congleton." It was in 1650 that he first appears as Vicar of St. John's, Chester; his successor (without a date) being entered as Philip Wilson. Ormerod's *Cheshire* (new ed.), vol. i., p. 315.

PETER LEIGH.—He was subsequently the ejected Minister of St. John's, Chester, and Calamy states the name should be *Lee*. He is not to be confounded with the Mr. Peter Leigh, of Chester (Newcome's *Autobiog.*, page 64), who was prosecuted in the High Commission Court for befriending the celebrated Mr. Prynne on the occasion of his journey through Chester in 1687. But he may be the Mr. Leigh who attended with Newcome at a religious exercise at Newcastle-under-Lyne in 1651 (*Ibid.*, p. 34). Under date of Saturday, 12th June, 1653, the same authority relates that he (Newcome) preached "at the great church at Chester [viz., St. Werburgh's], for Mr. Peter Leigh," on Luke xv., 7. "It was the first time I ever preached there. At that time Mr. Ash [Simeon Ashe, formerly settled in Staffordshire, the well-known Presbyterian minister] was at Chester, and I then had his acquaintance. He preached on the Monday, and I heard him, on 1 Cor. vi. 9. It was six at night when I took horse, and I got home to Gausworth about eleven" (*Ibid.*, p. 34). To Philip Wilson, above-named, Vicar of St. John's, succeeded Peter Leigh in 1658 (Ormerod, i. 315). Newcome, 27th September, 1662, relating that he was "ascited" to Chester, mentions "Mr. Leigh" as one of his dear brethren similarly treated; and on 25th October, at Manchester, he records that he was wholly taken up with Mr. Peter Leigh and some other company (*Diary*, 126, 134). After this, Leigh went to live at Knutsford (Calamy *Acc.*, 123); and Mr. Tong, in his *Life of Mr. Matthew Henry*, p. 254, speaking of him as living among the Dissenters in that town, about the year 1686, says that this Mr. Lee was a gentleman of birth, an humble, upright person, and a good scholar, but through bodily indisposition not capable of constant work (*Ibid.*, *Cont.*, p. 169).

Stretford.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

JULY 7, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

July 7.—Public Thanksgiving Service for the Elban Peace, celebrated at Chester Cathedral	1814
" 8.—Bishop G. H. Law enthroned in Chester Cathedral	1812
" 10.—St. Peter's Chapel, Whitewell, consecrated by Bishop G. H. Law	1818
" 11.—King of Saxony visited Chester on his tour through England	1844
" 12.—Munden, Bannister, and Miss Leake, performing at the Theatre Royal, Chester	1799
" 13.—Robert de Hastings inducted 6th Abbot of Chester	1186
	J. H.

Original Documents.

[1210] THE LORDS OF MOLD.

(Continued from No. 1191.)

The estate of *James*, Earl of Derby, having been confiscated, his son and successor, *Charles*, attempted to recover the manors of HAWARDEN, MOLD, and HOPE, by the assistance of Sir JOHN TREVOR, Colonel TWISLETON, and Captain ANDREW ELLIS, who were able to advance the money which was necessary for the purchase from the trustees appointed by the Parliament. And the following Agreement was drawn up at a meeting at Lincoln's Inn, and attested by Sir ORLANDO BRIDGEMAN and Sir JOHN GLYNNE.

"Agreed—April the 29th, 1652.

Captain ANDREW ELLIS to purchase all the three Manors of HAWARDEN, MOLD, and HOPE, in trust for my Lord of Derby, or such as he shall appoint.

But the interest and profits to remain with the purchasers for security until my Lord shall reimburse the moneys paid for the same, together with the charges incident; which is to be paid as followeth, videl't, Paying seventy pounds for every hundred pounds for the purchase money. But the charges in the full sum in money. And also further paying two years value for the demesne, as it is or shall be rated upon the particulars upon which the purchase shall be made, which said two years value is also to be paid in full ready money.

That my Lord shall have one year's time for the payment of these moneys, He allowing interest as following; and the said space of a year to be

accounted from the first payment made of the purchase money.

That my Lord is to pay interest after six per cent., viz., for the purchase money from the time it shall be paid, reckoning for every hundred pounds of the purchase money seventy pounds to be paid.

And for the ready money for the two years value, as also for the charges, six per cent. from the first payment of the purchase money.

The profits of the lands to be discounted upon payment of interest. If my Lord fail payment whereof in the year, the purchase to be wholly to the purchasers own use.

Signed, sealed, and delivered
the day and year above said,
in the presence of E. Derby,
J. Glynn, O. Bridgeman. } DERBY, L. S. ©
GEO. F. FAREWELL,
L. S. © "

The three Manors having been shortly after purchased in accordance with this Agreement, the EARL OF DERBY seems to have been unable to make good the purchase money. And in November, 1653, an Agreement was prepared, by which he undertook to convey his interest in "the several manors of Hawarden, Mold, and Hope," to Sir JOHN GLYNN. I copy this Agreement, which does not seem to have been executed, as it throws some further light on the proceedings:—

"2 November, 1653.—First, the said EARL OF DERBY doth, for him, his heirs, executors, and administrators, covenant and agree to and with the said JOHN GLYNN, That he, the said Earle, and his heirs will, upon request, convey and assure all his and their right, title, claim, and demand of, in and to the several Manors of HAWARDEN, MOLD, and HOPE, in the County of Flint, with the Advowson, Patronage, and right of presentation to the Church of HAWARDEN, and all and singular his lands and tenements there in the parishes of Hawarden, Mold, and Hope; And all deeds, evidences, and writings, touching and concerning the premises, or any part thereof, unto and upon the said JOHN GLYNN and his heirs, or unto such other person and persons as he shall appoint, by such conveyances and assurances in the law as he shall direct or appoint, be it by fine, recovery, feofment, or otherwise. And will procure his now Countess to join therein; the said conveyances to be made at the charge of the said JOHN GLYNN.

And the said JOHN GLYNN, in consideration thereof, doth for himself, his heirs, executors, and administrators, covenant and agree to and with the said Earle, That he will pay unto the said Earle the sum of £1600 in manner following (that is to say): Five hundred Pounds in hand, and one Thousand and one hundred Pounds when he shall convey the premises as aforesaid. And shall and will pay or satisfy unto Sir John Trevor, Knight, Colonel Twisleton, and Captain Andrew Ellis all such sum and sums of money as they are to receive for the premises from the said Earle, according to certain Articles made between the said Earle and them upon the purchase of the same from the Trustees of the

Commonwealth for the Sale of Delinquents' Lands; which money is to be paid and satisfied unto them, upon their conveying of the premises to the said JOHN GLYNN and his heirs.

And the said JOHN GLYNN is further to pay unto the said Countess of DERBY One hundred pounds when the said Earle and Countess shall convey the premises as aforesaid.

In witness whereof the parties hereunto have interchangably put to their hands and seals the day and year above written."

A month after the date of the above Agreement the following Letter was sent by the EARL OF DERBY to the Purchasers:—

"Gentlemen,
This is to give you notice, That I am prepared to pay you y'r money for the Manor and Lordship of MOLD, according to the Articles of Agreement made between you and myself touching the same. And therefore do desire you to come to Mr. SERGEANT GLYNN his lodging, in Lincoln's Inn, upon Friday, being the 17 day of december, 1653, at nine in the morning, where your money shall be ready for you. Or, if you like not that place, then, if you please to signify by the bearer what other place I shall come to pay the same at that time, I will not fail to meet you and pay it you there. I understand that you have not yet taken estate, from the Trustees for Sale of Delinquents' Lands, of the other two Manors or Lordships of HAWARDEN and HOPE, which you should have done, as I conceive, according to the Articles; which is the reason I did not hitherto tender you the money for them, which by the said Articles was agreed upon; yet, notwithstanding, I am likewise ready to pay the same, and shall very shortly give you notice of the time and place.

Your friend and servant,

DERBY.

Queen Street, this 3rd of
December, 1653."

(To be continued.)

Gresford.

WM. TREVOR PARKINS.

Notes.

[1211] ONE DOCTOR CURES, THREE DOCTORS KILL.

The *Chester Weekly Journal* for Feb. 2, 1725, contains the following advertisement, written by a patient in defence of the six local Doctors who had had his case in hand, and whose treatment of his disorder had evidently been canvassed freely and somewhat prejudicially in the city.

"Chester, February, 1725-6.

Having received Information, that a Report is spread about Town as if Doctor Twisleton, Doctor Hall, Doctor Bruen, Mr. Aldersey, Mr. Cowper, and Mr. Speed (who are all the Gentlemen that have attended

me during my illness) were Ignorant of the cause of my Indisposition, and that they had performed several Operations upon me that I was against and dissatisfied with. I do hereby Declare to the World that the said Report is False and Groundless, and that the said Gentlemen have not taken one Step with me but what has been with my Consent and Approbation. And that I do verily Believe the Measures they have taken are agreeable to my Case. And I do make this Declaration to the World with no other View, but to do Justice to the Characters of those Gentlemen, of whose Abilities and Sincerity to serve me I am very well satisfied.

EDWARD LEADBEATER.

Signed in the Presence
of us, *Char. Oulton,*
John Shard, Peter
Leadbeater, Distiller."

H. S. A.

[1212] A GROSVENOR DUEL.

The printed Pedigree of the house of Grosvenor records the simple fact that an ancestor of the present Duke was killed in a duel. I cannot remember to have seen the particulars of this disaster in any notice of the family that has come before me, until I met with the following reference to it in the *Cavalier's Note Book* of WILLIAM BLUNDELL, of Crosby, Esq., in the 17th century, which has been recently edited by the Rev. T. H. Gibson:—

"My good friend, Mr. *Da. Sa.* (whom I call son) told me this following story, this present May 12, 1668. Mr. GROSVENOR, son of Sir Richard Grosvenor, who was killed some time since, said to Mrs. Houghton (now widow of Mr. Gilbert Houghton) that day before he was killed, that if any man was to ride near his footman (who I think was to run a race that day) he would kill him, or be killed by him. Mr. *D. S.* told me that Mrs. Houghton told him this. But the conclusion was this,—Mr. GROSVENOR that day switched Mr. ROBERTS, and drew upon him; but Mr. Roberts killed him with his sword, and before he died, he said it was his own fault."

This unfortunate gentleman was Mr. ROGER GROSVENOR, eldest son of Sir Richard Grosvenor, of Eaton, baronet. He married Christiana, daughter of Sir Thomas Myddleton, of Chirk Castle, bart.; and it was their son, who by his fortunate marriage with Mary Davies, of Westminster, brought the splendid "West-end" estate into the Grosvenor family.

On the violent death of her husband, as above narrated, on August 22 or 23, 1661, at the age of 33, the young widow soon after became the wife of John Edisbury, of Erthig, Esq., ancestor of the present Mr. J. F. Edisbury, of Wrexham. Mr. Roger Grosvenor was buried in the family vault in Eccleston Church, near Chester.

T. HUGHES.

[1213] NANTWICH MANUFACTURES.

Kindly find room for the following extract from the New Edit. of Ormerod's *Cheshire*, vol. iii. p. 287:—

"Inconsiderable quantities of shoes and gloves are made at Nantwich, and cotton manufactures have been introduced there [but which do not appear to have flourished, at least to any extent]."

The salt works of the place have long been on the decline [and are now almost if not quite extinct]."

I have been struck with the inaccuracy of the above statement as to the trades now carried on at NANTWICH; for out of a population of between 7,000 and 8,000, nearly 1,000 are employed in the Shoe Trade alone, and the "inconsiderable quantity" is represented by a weekly product of 8,000 to 10,000 pairs of boots. Then, again, the statement as to the Glove Trade is even more incorrect, as it is 17 years last April since any gloves were made here. The Cotton Mill has been closed for seven years, and no trace whatever exists of the Salt manufacture.

W. J. W.

Nantwich.

Queries.

[1214] FAT MISTRESS VESSEY.

Early in the seventeenth century, there was a Cheshire woman living in Ireland, who was so terribly corpulent that Irishmen and others, when shewn an unusually fat sow in an English farmer's sty, would exclaim, "Sure, an she's as big as Mrs. VESSEY, the Cheshire woman, who was too fat to stand upon her feet!" Are any particulars extant as to this lady, whose obesity had thus grown into a proverb?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[1215] THOMAS BAILEY, ARTIST.

Mr. THOMAS BAILEY, miniature painter, was the youngest son of Mr. Bailey, organist of CHESTER CATHEDRAL, and pupil of Mr. BURT, a drawing master, in Crane-street, of whom I wrote in last week's CHESHIRE SHEAF. He practised as a Teacher of Drawing and Miniature Painter on ivory, and was also a good Flower Painter. The latter art he acquired from his mother; who was much employed during her early years in ornamenting ladies' muslin dresses with wreaths of flowers, and also in painting on satin the heads and extremities of figures, which ladies filled up with various kinds of needlework. He was thus born, as it were, with the paint-brush in his mouth. His miniatures were beautifully coloured and finished, and hence are valuable; but his drawings were not always true, that is to say, sufficiently striking as regards the likeness.

I will not pretend to enumerate any of his miniatures in particular. Some of his fancy paintings in this way, made from engravings, are exquisite specimens of Miniature Painting on Ivory.

He also painted very well in oil; a specimen of an "Ecco Homo" by him, I possess; and a friend has a copy of one on ivory, admirably finished. He also made a few very fair etchings on copper; and he and his mother left some good drawings, in black lead, of the old city gates and a few of the old buildings now swept away.

When lithography was first introduced into Chester he, conjointly with a friend, made several attempts with it; and published, amongst many others, an interesting view of CHESTER RACES, a view of the CATHOLIC CHAPEL, Queen-street, and a full-length likeness of old JOHN DICKENSON, the one solitary letter carrier, at that time, in Chester, the relatives of whom possess a copy, admirably coloured by him from life. There is also in existence a painting by him of CHESTER REGATTA.

Mr. BAILLY's parents were very friendly with RICHARD WILSON, the father of English landscape painting; who gave them one he had made in HAWARDEN Park, of trees, &c. This picture was, in after years, given to DR. CUMMING, in payment of a debt incurred at various times, more especially in attendance on his mother during her last illness.

R. O.

[1216] BOLD WATKIN!

I have for some years past had in my possession a Leaden Medal, about which no satisfactory information has hitherto been obtained. Possibly I may be more successful if aided by your formidable staff of correspondents in THE SHEAF.

The Medal is not of a very high order of art, and the dies for it were probably of local design and manufacture. It measures somewhat less than 1½ inches in diameter, and may be thus described:—

Obverse:—The half-length figure of a gentleman to the left, in costume of about George I., with long flowing wig, and apparently a bugle horn slung over his right shoulder, and the legend "BOLD WATKIN TREV."

Reverse:—A church with spire, and the legend, running half round, "LET'S ALL PURSUE."

Is anything known of this Medal in the past history of the Wynns, for I presume the Watkin referred to must have been one of the baronets of Wynnstay? I may add that there is a flaw across the reverse, shewing that the die had got broken in the after process of casting; and to this accident may be attributed the fact that no other copy of the Medal is now known.

Horsley.

F. P.

[1217] KATHERINE GRAY THE CHESTER POTTEER.

I have seen it stated that old Katherine Gray kept a pottery shop at Chester, and that when she died the following lines were cut upon her gravestone:—

"Beneath this stone lies old Katherine Gray,
Changed from a busy life to lifeless clay;
By earth and clay she got her pelf,
But now is turned to earth herself.
Ye weeping friends, let me adv.se,
Abate your grief and dry your eyes;
For what avails a flood of tears?
Who knows but, in a run of years,
In some tall pitcher or broad pan
She in her shop may be again?"

Can any of your readers say where old Katherine lies buried?
A. R. S.

[1218] PIGOT, THE CHESTER HISTORIAN.

I have on my library shelf a small *History of Chester*, in 8vo., bearing the date 1815 on the title page, but no author's name. I see a former owner has lettered it on the back "CUITT'S" *History of Chester*; but a pencil memorandum inside says that this is an error, and that the book was written by a Mr. PIGOT. Who is to decide where doctors disagree? A careful reading of the title-page satisfies me that Cuitt's connection with this particular *History* was confined to the three or four very artistic illustrations scattered through the volume.
A WOODMAN.

Replies.

[1219] THE CHESHIRE PENINSULAR HEROES.

[No. 1185.—June 16.]

I have just read in THE SHEAF the full report of the proceedings on the occasion of the reception of Lords HILL and COMBERMERE, of which I have a perfect recollection.

I was present during the whole of the proceedings on the occasion, which were most highly interesting. I was not one of the dinner party, being then much too young to be considered entitled to obtain a ticket—a matter of great difficulty. But I was present in the Music Gallery (Orchestra) of the Royal Hotel Assembly Room, and, just as it happened, sat close to LADY COMBERMERE; though I did not know at the time who the lady was, nor until she had left my side, on being called away to go to his Lordship. I sat quite close to, and conversed with, her Ladyship, being able to point out all, or most, of the guests sitting below us at the festive board; and a great sight and occasion it was!

S. J. R.

[1220] LAMPREYS AND SNIGS.

[Nos. 1186, 1208.—June 16, 30.]

Under the head of "Lampreys" your correspondents have alluded to two distinct species of fish, the LAMPREY (*Petromyzon marinus*) and the LAMPERN

(*Lampetra fluviatilis*). The former is a "sea-going fish, and visits the rivers in early spring for the purpose of spawning. Within a few years I have seen it taken in quantities from the Causeway, at Chester, and offered for sale at the Cross. The *Lamperna*, on the contrary, is plentiful all the year round in many of our English rivers.

A MEMBER, CHES. SOC. N. S.

At NORTHWICH the township is separated from the Hundred of Edisbury, and from the township of CASTLE NORTHWICH, by, says *Ormerod*,

"a stream or brook (now covered with a plat) called LAMPREY DITCH, which formerly abounded with fish of that name, but which the increase of navigation on the river Weaver seems to have totally destroyed."

That Lampreys were really reputed a dainty dish is clear from the Records of Gloucester. That city used for centuries to send a Lamprey Pie at Christmas to the Royal Court,—perhaps, indeed, Henry I. owed his death to one of those very Gloucester pies. But when royalty was by the national whim laid aside for awhile, the citizens during the Commonwealth substituted their M.P.s for the King; and one of their Christmas payments runs thus:—

"Item, Paid to Thomas Suffield, cook, for Lamprey pies sent to our Parliament Men.....208 : 00 : 00"

In the *Rolls of Gifts and Fines*, in the reign of King John, it is recorded that Ranulph Blundeville, Earl of Chester, "gave to the King a good palfrey, in return for one Lamprey the King had given him." The King, one would fancy, must have had, as Kings were formerly in the habit of having, by a good deal the best of the bargain.

G. T.

JULY 14, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

July 15.—Cooke, the tragedian, performing at Chester Theatre	1803
„ 16.—John Pearson, 16th Bishop of Chester, author of Treatise on <i>The Creed</i> , died at Chester	1696
„ 18.—Christ Church, Alsager, consecrated by Bishop Markham	1789
„ 19.—Sir Watkin W. Wynn, bart., and several guests at Wynnstay, came to Chester, dressed in the characters of the <i>Merry Wives of Windsor</i>	1775
„ 20.—Tornado in Macclesfield Forest.....	1662

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1221] THE LORDS OF MOLD.

(Continued from No. 1210.)

As the final result of the various negotiations between the Earl of Derby, Sir John Glynnne, and the three Purchasers of the forfeited Flintshire Manors, the Manor of Hawarden was conveyed by the Purchasers and the Earl to Sir John Glynnne, and the Manor of Mold and Hope were conveyed to the Purchasers by his Lordship. An agreement for a partition of Mold and Hope was shortly afterwards entered into by Sir John Trevor and his two associates.

"Articles of Agreement Tripartite, indented made concluded and agreed upon the nine and twentieth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred fifty and seven; between Sir JOHN TREVOR of TREVALLIN otherwise ALLINGTON, in the County of Denbigh, Knight, of the first part, and GEORGE TWISLETON of Denbigh in the County of Denbigh, Esquire, of the second part, and ANDREW ELLIS, of Athrey, in the County of Flint, Esqre., of the third part, touching the division of the Manors of HOPE otherwise QUEEN'S HOPE otherwise ESTIN, and MOLD, with their and either of their rights members and appurtenances in the said County of Flint, and all the lands tenements and hereditaments by them purchased of CHARLES, Earle of Derby, in the names of Sir Charles Wolseley, Richard Knightley, John Twisleton, John Howley, Rowland Jewkes, and Joshua Sprigg, and their heirs, and in the names of the said Sir John Trevor, George Twisleton, and of Humphrey Ellis, deceased, of the Trustees for the sale of Delinquents Lands, now or late sitting at Drury House.

It is concluded and agreed by and between the said parties, and every of them respectively, for themselves their several and respective heirs and assigns, that the said Sir JOHN TREVOR shall and will between the first day of July next ensuing and the twentieth day of August next ensuing the date hereof in writing subscribed with his own proper hand, fairly and in bona fide divide and set out the said Manors and premises into three equal parts or allotments to the best of his understanding.

Item, that the said Sir JOHN TREVOR shall make each part or allotment as entire as he conveniently can, and shall not allot both the Seigniorys unto any one part or allotment.

Item, that after such division made and signed but before publication thereof, that is to say, on the said twentieth day of the said month of August, the said GEORGE TWISLETON and ANDREW ELLIS shall at the Red Lion Inn in Wrexham in the County of Denbigh, decide by lots, in such manner as themselves shall agree, which of them the said George or Andrew shall have the first choice, and which of them the second choice of the said parts according to such partition.

Item, that such of them to whom the privilege of the first choice shall happen by the said lots, shall forthwith on the same twentieth day of August, at the Inn aforesaid, pay unto the said Sir JOHN TREVOR or his assigns fifty pounds of good and lawful money of England; and the other of them unto whom the privilege of the second shall happen, shall also pay unto the said Sir JOHN TREVOR or his assigns five and twenty pounds of like money.

Item, that after such payment made the said Sir JOHN TREVOR upon the said twentieth day of August shall publish or cause to be published such his divisions in writing ready to be delivered unto both or either of the said parties requiring or demanding the same.

Item, that after the respective payments aforesaid, he to whom the privilege of the first choice shall fall shall at the Inn aforesaid at or before the twentieth day of September next ensuing the date hereof, before two or three credible witnesses, make choice which of the said parts so divided he will have for his share; and then and there also he to whom the privilege of the second choice shall fall shall make choice, as aforesaid, which of the two remaining parts so divided he will have for his share; and that the said Sir JOHN TREVOR shall also for his share have the last and third division or part.

Item, that in case the said Sir JOHN TREVOR do so long live and being not hindered or disabled by sickness or some other eminent danger or mischance shall after payment of the said several sums aforesaid according to the precedent articles fail to make or publish or cause to be made or published such his division, That then the said Sir JOHN TREVOR shall not only pay back the said GEORGE TWISLETON and ANDREW ELLIS their respective sums by them paid unto him, but shall also forfeit to them for such failure the sum of one hundred pounds, to be equally divided between them. And in like manner, in case the said GEORGE TWISLETON and ANDREW ELLIS do so long live and being not hindered or disabled by sickness or some other eminent danger or mischance, shall fail in making such division by Lots or payments on their parts respectively to be done or performed, That they and either of them shall for every such failure forfeit and pay to the said Sir JOHN TREVOR the sum of one hundred pounds, that is to say the sum of Fifty pounds apiece, the said several and respective forfeitures to be paid on the twentieth day of August aforesaid at the Red Lion Inn in WRENTHAM aforesaid.

Item, that by or before the first day of January, next ensuing the date hereof, good and sufficient Conveyances and Assurances shall be respectively and reciprocally sealed and executed of the said respective parts or division to whom the same shall so as aforesaid happen to fall and their heirs or such person or persons and their heirs as the said parties shall respectively for that purpose nominate, at the respective costs and charges of the parties who are to have or take the same respectively, their

heirs or assigns, as his or their counsel learned in the Law respectively, shall within the time aforesaid for that purpose reasonably devise, advise, and require. Provided always nevertheless, and it is agreed between the said parties and every of them, that no Parcels, Rights, Members, or Appurtenances of or belonging to the said Manors or either of them, which have been discovered or recovered as belonging to or parcel of the said Manors, or either of them since the purchase of the said Manors, or hereafter shall be so discovered or recovered, shall be intended to be comprised within the said divisions or allotments; but that the same shall remain to the equal benefit of the said parties and their heirs respectively; without any benefit or advantage of survivorship, and that for omission thereof no forfeiture shall be incurred or lost by the said Sir JOHN TREVOR. In witness whereof the parties to these presents first above mentioned interchangeably have set their hands and seals the day and year first written.

G. TWISLETON, (L.S.)

A. ELLIS, (L.S.)

Sealed and delivered by the within named George Twisleton in the presence of Bevis Lloyd, Tho. Hanmer, Neville Mathwest, George Pluckenett, senior, Geo. Pluckenett, junior.

Sealed and delivered by the within named Andrew Ellis in the presence of John Peck, Richard Young, John Puleston, Roger Kenrick."

Acting under the above agreement, Sir John Trevor proceeded to make a division of the lands and manors. The first portion, consisting of the Manor of Mold and certain lands in Mold, was chosen by Captain Andrew Ellis; the second portion, consisting of other lands in Mold, was chosen by Colonel Twisleton; while the third portion, which fell to Sir John himself, comprised the Manor and lands of Hope and the remainder of the lands in Mold. The partition was subsequently duly carried out by suitable conveyances; but these conveyances contained an exception of "Mines and Minerals," which seem to have been even at that time valuable, and which the representatives of the three Purchasers still continue to enjoy as a common property under the popular designation of *the Lords of Mold*.

Gresford.

WM. TREVOR PARKINS.

Notes.

[1222]

GREAT STORM IN 1697.

From the volume of *Philosophical Transactions* for 1697, we can form some notion of the violent Storm which visited this part of the country in the spring of that year. Our local annals, so far as I know, have preserved no particulars of this unusual and untoward event:—

"1697. April 29th. Thunderstorm at Snowdon and Denbighshire, with great hailstorm; also in Flintshire, Chester, West Kirkby, Ormskirk, and Blackburn. The breadth of the cloud 2 miles, and length of track 60 miles. Hailstones 5oz. in weight, and of various shapes, breaking nearly all the windows, killing many fowls, and destroying the green crop. Some stones 5 inches round; scarcely any stones as little as musket balls, whilst some were as large as hen's eggs, and 4lb. in weight. Many sea fowls were killed. At Ormskirk the hail weighed 4lb., breaking windows and tiles. At Crosby, Lancashire, beasts were knocked down. At Wirrall, near Chester, great hailstorm. Between St. Asaph and the sea all the weather-side windows broken, and poultry and lambs were killed. In the north of Flintshire several people had their heads broken, and were grievously bruised in their bodies. —Dr. Halley, F.R.S.

It is interesting to have this authentic record transmitted to us by so distinguished and accurate an observer as Dr. Halley.

Wrexham.

LANDWOR.

[1223] A GROSVENOR FEAST.

You have recently published some records of a "SIR WATKIN Spread" in 1769: here is a note of one on a similar occasion, in 1752, in connection with the coming of age of one of the Grosvenor family:—

"June 18, 1752. Birthday of RICHARD GROSVENOR, M.A., son and heir of SIR RICHARD GROSVENOR, Bart., who then attained the age of 21 years. The bells of CHESTER, and in several country parishes, began at midnight, and continued their peals all day; the Corporation and principal inhabitants of the city, with the gentlemen of Cheshire and other counties, came about noon to EATON HALL, the family seat, to pay their compliments, and to dine there. There were 4,000 people in the park, 7 cannons kept firing, 50 hog-heads of strong beer were drunk, and 4,000 bottles of wine, besides all sorts of punch."

This account is abridged from one of the London serials of the time. If the four thousand ate in proportion to their drinking, the consumption of victuals must have exceeded that at WYNNSTAY!

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

Queries.

[1224] CHESTER CATHEDRAL SCULPTURES.

In the *Chester Guide*, published by J. BROSTER in 1795, there is an engraving of the "Cathedral of Chester," and I notice that images are represented as standing in nearly all the niches in the buttresses.

Supposing the engraving to represent the edifice as it appeared 85 years ago, the question naturally arises, What has become of the images? If they were in anything like a state of preservation in 1795, I can hardly believe they have since that time crumbled away; as the figure in St. John's Church steeple has been exposed to the weather for hundreds of years, and seems as if it would last as long again. Perhaps some reader of THE SHEAF can throw a little light on the above question. I need hardly say that the niches (empty) are still in the buttresses of our Cathedral.

Bouverie-street.

WM. H. B.

[1225] THE COCKPIT, CHESTER.

This now illegal, and almost obsolete, amusement, once so popular among sportsmen, was at one time a prominent feature of the CHESTER Race-week. The last public COCKPIT set up in the city was at the NEWGATE, and was, for a long time after its disuse for its original purpose, the headquarters of the Sixth or (Earl of Chester's) Rifle Volunteers. I remember it in its first estate, while the pit, &c., remained intact, but I was never present there during an actual fight. Was the Cockpit always situated at this spot? Any particulars relative to its history will be interesting. L. L.

[1226] CHESHIRE HERONRIES.

May I be allowed to ask whether the Heron is known to build in any other part of Cheshire besides the well-known "Heronry" in Eaton Park?

A MEMBER CHES. SOC. N. S.

[1227] OBADIAH BRANDRETH, THE CLOCKMAKER.

I should be glad of a few particulars relative to the above-named. He lived and died I believe at Middlewich, and was a mechanician of considerable local eminence. I have seen several clocks of his manufacture, ingeniously fitted up with chimes, &c., and have heard that some of the Church chimes of the neighbourhood were also his work. He was, I fancy, a native of this county.

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

Replies.

[1228] THE CHURCH OF ST. CHAD.

[No. 1205.—June 30]

There is no doubt this Church stood at the bottom of Princess-street, on the north side, opposite to the road leading to the City Gaol. It was standing as late as the reign of Henry VII.; for in a document of the 16th of that king, in the possession of the late Mr. Dixon, of Chester, a certain "croft and cloest" is described as "lying nigh the Church of St. Chadde of

Chester." In a record of the 21st of the same King, a fine was levied on account of St. Stephen's Cross (standing at the bottom of Parson's Lane), and a document quoted in the 8vo. *History of Chester* nearly confirms the above conjecture. The Crofts now form the site of the Infirmary, City Gaol, &c.

We find a chapel and well in Little Parson's Lane were given by Richard Fitton to Chester Abbey in the reign of Henry III., which chapel was no doubt that of St. Chad. It would appear from an extract from the Will of Wm. Danyers of Daresbury, dated 1306, that this Church had a monastic establishment attached to it—"Item (lego) fratribus Sancti Chad, vj denarios" (Ormerod). We have not the least account as to the period of its destruction.

The old stone wall on the north side of the lower end of Princess-street is probably a relic of the old Church.

Newton.

H.

ST. CHAD is supposed to have been born in Northumbria, and to have received his education at Lindisfarne under St. Aidan, who had founded a school at that place for twelve boys; and afterwards in one of the Irish monasteries, from whence he proceeded to Lastingham, near the Pickering Hills in Yorkshire, where for a time he filled the post of Abbot of the Monastery. According to *Bede* he was subsequently elected Bishop of York; and having entered upon the duties of his high office, he commended himself to all men by his diligence in preaching the Gospel throughout the towns and villages, and by the manner of his life; being temperate, humble, studious, and charitable to all who came in contact with him. Theodore, who was Archbishop of Canterbury in 668, when on a visitation in 669, fancied he found a flaw in St. CHAD's title to his See; and he appears thereupon to have vacated it, in favour of Wilfred, who had been nominated to York some time before St. CHAD's consecration to the office of a bishop. But in September of the very same year (669) he, with the full approbation of Theodore, became Bishop of Lichfield (in which ancient See CHESTER was included), where he remained till 672, when he died of the pestilence. He was to all intents and purposes a British bishop, as distinguished from some of his brethren, who were more Italian than English in sympathies; and according to Mr. Walcott—who is esteemed as an authority upon such questions—a great number of churches in the *Midland Counties* of England were called after his name. But ST. CHAD's, SHREWSBURY, is best known of them all, for it has occupied a first place in the local history of that ancient town, as it will continue to do for all time. I suppose CHESTER would not come within the "Midlands," being so far west of Lichfield; but it formed an important part of the old LICHFIELD Diocese, and naturally therefore ST. CHAD's memory was cherished by the pious of the place. As naturally would one of its

churches be called after the holy man, whose savour of a saintly life on earth had continued to blossom long after his own departure to the life in heaven; and thus we are brought face to face with the reasonableness of the record referred to by MR. HUGHES, and have one additional inducement to follow up the story in the manner suggested by "A CESTRIAN" in THE SHEAF.

S.

[1229]

FLINT OLD CHURCH.

[No. 1167.—June 2.]

The *Gentleman's Magazine* for January, 1801, contains a Letter to good old Sylvanus Urban, which is so very much to the point on the enquiry instituted by "L. L.," that no apology is needed for asking you to insert the article *in extenso* in THE SHEAF. The writer was a distinguished antiquary, and his letter may be trusted for accuracy of detail.

"Shrewsbury, Sept. 1 [1800].

MR. URBAN,

Being at Flint (the county town of Flintshire, N. Wales), last July, I made a drawing of the church, which I send to you, and hope you will give it a place in your Magazine.

Flint church is of considerable antiquity, is dedicated to St. Mary, and is a perpetual curacy to Northop. The interior is plain, and contains little that claims the attention of the traveller; there are some remains of painted glass in the windows, but too mutilated to be described. On a brass plate on the floor, in the North side, is the following inscription:—

HIC IACET CORPVS THOMÆ SALVS-
BYRIÆ DE LEAD BROOK ARMIGERI:
QUI OBIIT DECIMO QVARTO DIE
MARTIS, ANNO DOMINI 1602, ÆTATIS
SVÆ 42.

SALVS=BYRIÆ
IVNCTA SALVS FVNVS SVNT IN COGNO-
MINE FVNVS
PRÆTERIT REMANET PERPETVATA
SALVS:
A CINERE AD SALVTEM.

The following are in the churchyard:—

On a plain tombstone:

HERE LIES IN HOPES OF A IOYFVLL RESVRRECTION
THE BODY OF THOMAS PIERS OF CHWABEL WHO
[DEPARTED
THIS LIFE THE 12 DAY OF DECEMBER IN THE 50
[YEARE OF
HIS AGE AND WAS BVRIED THE 15 OF THE SAME
[MONTH
ANNO DOMINI 1710.—HE IS NOT DEAD, BUT
[SLEEPETH.

On another:

Here lies the body of
Peter Davies, son of
David Davies, who departed
this life March 21st, 1775.
Aged 19.

Think on the fate of mortal men,
 How soon they go to dust;
 But they that live a godly life
 Shall rise amongst the just.
 You that are young prepare to die,
 For I was young though here I lie;
 My marriage bed is in the dust,
 And Christ my bride in whom I trust.
 Yours, &c. D. PARKES."

A neatly-executed engraving of the old Church accompanies Mr. Parkes' letter. There is no ground plan given, but I gather from the plate that the structure included a central nave, with side aisles, tower, projecting chancel, and a common-place north-western porch. On the north side of the churchyard there are shown the remains of an evidently once fine Cross: this relic possibly still exists in some garden rockery in the neighbourhood, and it would be interesting should it now be brought to light through the medium of your columns.

G. T.

JULY 21, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

July 21.—Chester Tramways opened from Chester Railway Station to Saltney	1879
„ 22.—Wistaston Church, Cheshire (rebuilt in the old Churchyard near site of former Church), consecrated by Bishop Blomfield.....	1828
„ 23.—Chelford Chapel, Cheshire, consecrated by Bishop Markham	1776
„ 24.—“Chester Herald” sent by Henry V. to demand the surrender of France to England	1415
„ 25.—St. George's Church, Staleybridge, consecrated by Bishop Markham.....	1776
„ 26.—The <i>Defender</i> gun-brig launched from Mr. Courtney's shipbuilding yard at the Crane, Chester.....	1804
„ 27.—Public Meeting at Chester to establish a Volunteer Force	1803

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1230] THE LORDS OF MOLD.

(Continued from No. 1221.)

The conveyances by which the partition was completed were executed in January 1657-8. Holding their estates under a purchase from the Earl of Derby,

as well as under a purchase from the Parliamentary Trustees, Sir JOHN TREVOR and his friends had every reason to think their title as perfectly secure. But the Restoration in 1660 was quickly followed by a vigorous attempt to dispossess them of the property they had acquired. A Bill was brought into Parliament in favour of CHARLES, EARL OF DERBY, which appears to have been passed by the Lords and by the Commons, and to have failed only because it did not receive the sanction of the King. The reasons against the passing of this Bill were strong ones, and they seem to be fairly stated in the following paper:—

“The answers of Sir JOHN TREVOR, &c., purchasers of the Lordships of HORN and MOULD to the printed case of the EARL OF DERBY.

That they deny and detest the Fraud and conspiracy laid to their Charge, and as the EARL hath never yet proved anything like it, so he never can; And we hope, by the favour of this Honourable House, at a publick hearing at the Bar, if they shall please to grant it, to make it appear that our Title to these Manors is Just and Honourable, and that these suggestions are but the necessary Calumnies that do attend so unreasonable desires as are pursued in this Bill. To prevent the prejudice that may grow in the mean time they give this answer.

1. It is denied that the purchasers or any of them did employ Agents to gain the Presumptions of the Tenants. That Sir JOHN TREVOR had never any made to him. That Mr. ELLIS, to whom only some Presumptions were granted, did not employ the person that did procure them; who being Steward to the Earl of those Manors did indeed use his name for the benefit of the Tenants, to prevent a purchase by strangers. That no Presumptions were allowed in this Contract, the pretended Act of Sale not granting it in the case of Manors.

2. For the Competition at Drury house, which is charged upon all the Purchasers under the name of Confederates, 'Tis answered; That from Sir JOHN TREVOR there was never any, nor was he ever there, or any other on his behalf, till after the Agreement at Lincoln's Inn, dated the 29th of April, 1652, whereby the Purchasers were employed by the Earl to buy those three Manors in Trust for him with power of Redemption within a year. But if any Competition had been between the Earl and any of the Purchasers, there can no argument be drawn from thence to conclude a force upon him to lead him to that agreement, when it hath been and will be testified by the Lord Chief Justice Bridgeman, That at that meeting, when these Articles were agreed, as a Prologue to the freedom of that Treaty, it was declared by Sir JOHN TREVOR in behalf of himself and the Purchasers, That if the Earl would proceed to the Purchase of those Manors for himself, they would not give him any Competition or Interruption. Upon these Terms they then proceeded to those Articles which were at that time received with better expressions than the Earl is now pleased to give. The Conditions thereof being

so far from being hard that the medium, by which they undertook to Purchase for the Earl, was 5 per cent. lower than he paid to others at the same time, And then themselves were forced afterwards to give in the same Purchase.

3. That the Purchasers, nor any of them, did ever in the least, directly nor indirectly employ any agents to hinder the Earl from providing money to redeem, or to discourage the Tenants from lending; of which they defy any proof to be made that can be applied to them, and they have a Letter to produce under the Earl's Hand and Seal which will manifest this suggestion to be false and contrived only to serve this end.

4. That the Purchasers did never contract with SERGEANT GLYN for HAWARDEN until a month after the Earl had sold his right in the three Lordships to him without their privity, and had summoned them to come to the Sergeant's Chamber to receive their money, which the date of the several Articles and Letter evidently prove; that they only received their Money for the Manor of Hawarden, according to their Articles; and for the Manors of HORR and MOLD, the Articles between Sergeant Glyn and the Purchasers will shew, that they treated only with him for those two manors, and not with the Earl who had already sold them to Sergeant Glyn, and covenanted to convey as he should appoint; and though they now hold those Manors by Deeds and Fines from the Earl, yet indeed by force of that Agreement with Sergeant Glyn, who had then the disposal of the three Manors, and were now bought by the purchasers in discount of these moneys they could not otherwise receive: and the assurances which were afterwards made to them by the Earl, were in pursuance of his covenants with Sergeant Glyn, and could not in the least be procured by the Purchasers not suffering the Earl to receive the seventeen hundred pounds as is now alleged, which was due to the Earl by his contract with Sergeant Glyn, and never in their power to hinder.

5. That they took no conveyance to themselves till after the time of Redemption was elapsed, was to their own hazard in favour of the Earl, and in pursuance of their expectation and desire that the Earl should Redeem his Lands, and therefore wonder to find it now objected as a crime.

6. They are yet more obliged to the Earl's paper than to his Bill, for in this he declares himself willing to pay them their money and interest, but hath taken care in his Bill that they be required to give him 9000*l.* to pay themselves.

To the personal reflections that the Earl is pleased to bestow, they hope he intends not thereby to render them incapable of Common Justice. Sir JOHN TREVOR, though sometimes he sat in that Parliament, yet was never author or contriver to the EARL OF DERBY's death. Col. TWISLETON, though called to the Court Martial, entered his dissent to the Earl's death, and by the testimony of the Countess Dowager of Derby stands acquitted thereof upon Record in the Lords' House. And Mr. ELLIS,

who indeed had been Governor of HAWARDEN CASTLE, was turned out before the Earl's Estate was exposed for sale, for no other cause but for refusing to sit in that Court which condemned him."

Gresford.

WM. TREVOR PARKINS.

Notes.

[1231]

GREAT STORM OF 1828.

Fifty-two years ago this week, a heavy thunderstorm of long continuance, far exceeding in severity those which have visited Chester during the last few days, broke over the old city, causing great havoc all round the neighbourhood.

The *Chester Courant* for Tuesday, July 29, 1828, thus tells the story:—

"The rain fell in torrents here on Friday and Saturday, unequalled in the memory of the oldest inhabitant of the city. On the latter day more especially, enormous hailstones, which broke several panes of glass in the counting-house of Messrs. Rigby and Hancock, fell in such quantity as in some situations to cover the ground. Thunder rolled along, and with little intermission, during the whole afternoon. In this city all Eastgate-street was under water on Saturday, and an impetuous current, almost sufficient to float the fleet of the Yacht Club, ran through the Eastgate! On Friday night two of the boats broke from their moorings above the bridge, and were carried away by the current, but fortunately did not sustain any material injury. On Saturday about 15 yards of the Walls between Abbey-street and the Phoenix Tower gave way, and came down with a tremendous crash, being completely undermined by the heavy rains. Fortunately the state of the weather was such as to prevent any person passing at the time, or being at work in the Rope-walk beneath. The Tower field was completely under water, and the crops will be utterly destroyed. We understand that this may in a great measure be attributed to the drains which formerly ran into the Roodae being now turned into the Tower Field. In the course of Saturday night the rain somewhat abated. On Sunday morning the weather cleared up, and the view from the Walls at the top of the Northgate was highly picturesque; while at the same time it could not fail to give rise to melancholy reflection when taken as a specimen of a general devastation committed by the floods. All the farms on the right bank of the river, from the sluice House and its vicinity inclusive, were completely under water, and the hedge rows and clumps of trees gave them the appearance of a vast lake thickly studded with clusters of green islands. The Parkgate-road was rendered utterly impassable, and the meadows in that direction all the way up to the rear of the new LUNATIC ASYLUM were completely inundated. This was produced by

the rain alone, for not a drop of water overflowed the banks of the river DEE or the Canal. The water rose at Mr. WEDGM's house at SHALAND several inches higher than during the great flood of 1795, the greatest ever known in this part of the Kingdom. In the afternoon two large porpoises that came up with the tide, one as far as the Bridge, afforded amusement by their sportive gambols to a crowd of idlers, who ran after them along the banks. Some of the fishermen's boats put off and gave chase, in the hope of striking a boat hook, or some other missile, into the finny monsters, but without effect. There is only one instance within the memory of the oldest fisherman of a porpoise having come so far up the river: upon that occasion it went through the Bridge, and the fishermen succeeded in preventing its return, so that it fell an easy prey at low water in the KING'S POOL above the Bridge."

Your local newsmen of half a century ago has here no doubt given a little play to his imagination, when he pictures the fleet of the Chester Yacht Club as being almost able to float on the "impetuous current" then rushing beneath the EASTGATE: but, allowing for exaggeration, it is manifest the rainfall on that occasion must have exceeded anything within Cestrian living memory.

A WOODMAN.

[1232] A VENERABLE COUPLE.

In Nov., 1797, a sporting journal states that "a respectable gentleman at OVER, Cheshire, has challenged all England to ride one hundred miles, for one-hundred (or five-hundred) guineas, against any person of the same age, and riding a horse as venerable in point of antiquity as his own. The united ages of Old Nimrod and his nag, are 110."

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. B.

[1233] RAILWAY NOTES.

Some day or other, one of our grandchildren will be writing a history of the several Railways converging on Chester, and he will naturally turn to THE SHEAF in search of information. Let me then place upon record the following MS. notes made by an old citizen long since dead, and inserted by him in a commonplace book of his at the date of the several occurrences:—

"August 20th, 1838.—The first stone was laid for the CHESTER and CREWE railway, near to Hoole Lane Bridge; where the workmen was regaled with Beef and Ale in the field on the left hand of the Bridge that crosses the railway. Two marquees were struck in the same field, where the Directors partook of a cold Collation, a Band playing between the two Marquees."

"Thursday, Sept. 12, 1840.—The CREWE and CHESTER Railway was opened by the Steam Engine 'Wirral' and Ten Carriages, numbered Nos. 11 to 20. In a short time they proceeded to BIRKENHEAD on the same Evening."

"1845.—The CHESTER and HOLYHEAD railway was began at the rope-walk near the Water Tower on the 12th May, by beginning to fall the Trees."

It may be that these facts are not known to many of your readers,—they certainly were not to me,—hence my desire to rescue them, if you will permit me, from oblivion.

H. S. A.

Queries.

[1234] ALDERMAN ROBERT MURRAY.

A prominent citizen of this name was Sheriff of CHESTER in 1664, and Mayor in 1669. I believe his daughter, if not also heiress, married EDWARD HINCKS, another old citizen, the then representative of the HINCKS family of CHESTER and HUNTINGTON; and that their direct descendant in the main line is the present Captain T. C. HINCKS of Breckenbrough, co. York. Can any student of Chester topography kindly inform me in what part of the city Alderman Murray resided, and whether the particular house can now be identified?

Stockport.

MARY O. LATRY.

[1235] A CHESHIRE TOMB-STONE INSCRIPTION.

In an old printed scrap of paper, seemingly of the seventeenth century, I found this mutilated bit,—". . . upon an old stone in the churchyard (CHESHIRE being rich in such inscriptions):—

'All, all on earth is shadow; all beyond
Is substance:

There in Heaven, change shall be no more.'"

Can any of your numerous readers tell me *where* in CHESHIRE that "old stone" can be found? The inscription quoted above is, I think, modern; at least it has been claimed as such in some of the numerous works which have been published in the present century upon the memorials to the dead. But I want to trace it to some authority for quite a different purpose, and have thus ventured to ask you to give the enquiry a place in THE SHEAF.

It is asserted, with some show of authority, that altar-tombs and grave-stones cannot be traced to an earlier date than 1670; and that, prior to the Reformation, Chantries and small Chapels were erected by the wealthy over the burial places of the dead; where altars (not tombs) were fitted up, at which prayers had to be offered for the repose of the souls of the departed, and also to keep up the spiritual life of the people; who found in such services a peace and a happiness which they could not look for elsewhere. The early head-stones began to become fashionable towards the latter end of the seventeenth century, and were often sculptured and highly ornamented; some with cherubs, others with flowers, and all more or less adorned by devices of a tasteful character. Still later, poetic inscriptions were cut upon them, and it has often been

asserted that some of them, which are so often attributed to still earlier times, were really composed and out at a period much later. Even the modern carriage known as "a hearse" was not used until the days of William and Mary: so that when we find pompous eulogiums pronounced upon the splendid obsequies of our forefathers by modern writers, it is well to pause before we accept them for historical facts, and in the light of history to enquire if they are true.

I am led to these reflections by a singular document which fell into my hands the other day, in which one of our modern gentry endeavoured to prove his descent from a great warrior who flourished in the fifteenth century; and this he did by a precise reference to inscriptions he had copied from old tomb-stones of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. A friend of mine—no mean Herald—said to me upon perusing this particular document,—“this carries upon the face of it the evidence of its own condemnation:” and he then explained to me the *facts* (as he called them) which I have touched upon already. I can only ask which is the true story? Some of your more learned readers may be able to throw a new and sure light upon this (to me) doubtful subject; and I shall feel much indebted to you if you will allow me to put the question, more formally, to all such through the medium of *THE SHEAF*.

RAMADIN.

[1236] THE CHESTER ELECTION PETITION.

At the close of the judicial Enquiry to-day, I heard a partizan fiercely boasting that “the Election was won by *Lush*, and that now *Lush* had upset it!” The speaker was evidently palming this joke off on his hearers as original; but I am quite certain I have heard or seen it more than once before. When and where did this quip first see the light?

Chester, July 17.

L. L.

Replies.

[1237] ANCIENT IRON WORK.

[Nos. 1035, 1061.—Feb. 18, March 3.]

In the correspondence carried on in “*THE SHEAF*” some time ago with regard to the “Old Iron Work in Cheshire,” I was somewhat astonished at the paucity of examples of such work that seemed to be worthy of notice.

One of the best specimens of the 16th century Iron Work in this neighbourhood seems to have been entirely overlooked. I refer to the ornamental gates in the park at CHOLMONDELEY CASTLE. The leaves and scroll work of these gates are of the most perfect description. The present Castle was erected in 1801, and the gates in question were brought from the front of

the Old Hall, which had on its front the date 1571. On the centre of the gates are the family arms, “two esquires’ helmets, in base a garb.” The hatches or small gates, originally forming part of the entrance to the Old Hall, are now doing duty at some old black and white cottages at CHRISTLETON. When they and the large gates now in use at CHOLMONDELEY were erected they must have been considered notable specimens of Iron Work.

Nantwich.

W. J. W.

[1238] BOUNDHEAD PARSONS AT CHESTER.
PETER LEIGH.

[Nos. 1187, 1209.—June 16, 30.]

They say in CHESHIRE—“There are as many LEIGHS as fleas;” and there appear to have been a good many PETER LEIGHS. In our Register at NANTWICH I find the following:—

“July 1627.

About the thirteenth daye of this month, PETER LEIGH was by the Churchwardens with consente of the gent’ and others placed mynister here Duringe pleasure.”

I cannot find out how long that “pleasure” lasted. Can any one tell me what became of him? He was not buried here. He was here in 1631, as shown by the following entry at the end of the year:—

“Md. That att Michaellmas last past m’r JOHN SARING was hyred and entered to bee the aforenoons Preacher of god’s worde att NAMPTWICHE, as assistant to m’r PETER LEIGH.”

At the end of the year 1632 there is the following:—

“Md. That att Michaellmas this ye p’sent yeare 1622, mr. Thomas Boyse came to bee readinge minister att Namptwiche.”

Would he be Mr. Leigh’s successor? He was buried in 1633 as “Minister at Namptwiche.”

John Saring was ejected as Minister of Namptwich about 1640 (*Walker’s Sufferings of the Clergy*.)

I am trying to make a complete list of Incumbents, and should be glad of help as to the above period.

Nantwich Rectory. FOSTER G. BLACKBURN.

[1239] BOWBEDD HOUSE.

[No. 1188.—June 16.]

I have just come upon a notice of BOWBEDD HOUSE in some searches recently made among the *Royalist Composition Papers*, now in the Public Record Office, London. As I was busy at the time on quite a different subject, I merely recorded in my note book the fact that in Vol. XXI., folio 695, there is a distinct reference to certain “Lands and Tenements in the township of ALLOSTOCK and parish of GREAT BUDWORTH, called *Bowbedd House*.” This clue will enable your correspondent to follow up his inquiries, and perhaps to give us some historic particulars of this perhaps now destroyed and locally-forgotten house.

G. T.

JULY 28, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- July 28.—William Smith, D.D., the Translator of *Longinus*, installed Dean of Chester ... 1758
 „ 31.—Stockport and Heaton Norris Volunteers on permanent duty at Chester Castle... 1805
 Aug. 1.—George Lloyd, D.D., Bishop of Chester, died at Thornton-le-Moors Parsonage, near Chester 1614
 „ 2.—Dreadful storm of thunder and rain. Mr. Chamberlain's House in Smith's Walk struck by lightning, and a young woman killed..... 1801
 „ 3.—The Abbot of Norton taken prisoner by Sir Piers Dutton 1536

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1240] THE LORDS OF MOLD.

(Completed from No. 1230.)

CHARLES, EARL OF DERBY, died in 1672, and shortly after his death his son and successor, *William George Richard*, commenced another attempt to regain the property of the family. His first efforts were directed against Mr. JOHN TREVOR, who had succeeded his grandfather, SIR JOHN TREVOR, in the possession of the estate at Hope. An action of ejectment was brought by the Earl against a tenant of Mr. Trevor, and tried in the County of *Salop*, as being the next English county, in accordance with what was the usual practice in Welsh cases. A special verdict was found, in which the grant of *Richard the Third* to *Sir Thomas Stanley* was set out, with a full account of the subsequent history of the Manor. And after a long discussion, first in the Court of Exchequer, and afterwards before the Judges in the Exchequer Chamber, it was decided by a majority of the Judges, that *Charles*, Earl of Derby, had not power to bar his issue by the fine he had levied of the manor of HOPE, in pursuance of his agreement with *Sir John Trevor* and the other Purchasers, because that Manor had been granted in tail to *Sir Thomas Stanley*, and the reversion to it left in the Crown. Judgment was accordingly given in favour of the plaintiff in the action of ejectment, and Mr. Trevor was deprived of the estate.

The proceedings in this action are reported very fully by *Sir Thomas Raymond*. The case will be found in his reports under the name of *Murray v. Eyton*, and it

contains a large amount of information about the history of the Stanley family.

The decision in *Murray v. Eyton* was given in 1680, and, the Earl of Derby having been thus far successful, it is not very easy to understand how it was that he did not prosecute the rest of his undertaking more vigorously than he seems to have done. The struggle however still went on and did not terminate until some years later, and it was apparently in 1690 that the long-continued efforts of the Derby family to recover the Manor of MOLD were finally defeated.

I copy here a Paper which is endorsed, "Case of the Purchasers ag't E. of Derby's Bill. To be heard Tuesday, the 19th of Jan'y, '90, with the Brefes as they were spoke To before the L'ds." This Paper sufficiently explains itself, and contains a succinct history of the various transactions I have endeavoured to explain and illustrate.

"The True Progress of the Contract between CHARLES, late Earl of DERBY, Father of the Right Honble. WILLIAM GEORGE RICHARD, present EARL OF DERBY, And Sir JOHN TREVOR, GEORGE TWISLETON, and ANDREW ELLIS, Purchasers of the Manors of HAWARDEN, HOPE, & MOULD, and a True state of the Case between them touching the said Purchase.

By a pretended Act of Forfeiture, in Anno 1651, the Lands of the Earl of Derby are exposed to Sale; on the 29th of April, 1652, at the desire of the Countess Dowager of Derby, Sir John Trevor, &c. did meet at Lincoln's-Inn with Charles, Earl of Derby, where were present the Countess Dowager, the Earl and his Lady, the Lord Chief Justice Bridgeman, Sir John Glynne, and the Purchasers. There an agreement was made by Articles under Hand and Seal, whereby Sir John Trevor, &c. were employed by the Earl to Purchase the Three Lordships of HAWARDEN, HOPE, and MOULD, in Com: Flint, for the Earl of Derby, to be by him redeemed within one year.

The Purchasers according to their Articles proceed to Contract for these Mannors, the Contracts are made, some of them in the presence of the Earl at Drury-House: the year for Redemption expires, the Purchasers deliver in their Accounts, desire the Earl to repay their monies and Redeem his Lands; the Earl delays many months beyond the year, the Purchasers take no advantage of Forfeiture, but in expectation of receiving their money, forbear to take out Conveyances to themselves from the Trustees at Drury-house; & the Earl himself by a Letter under his Hand doth alleadge this as the excuse for not paying his monies at the time for Two of these Mannors.

The Earl now, instead of Redeeming his Lands, doth by agreement on November 2nd, 1653, unknown to the Purchasers, sell unto Sir John Glynne his whole Right and Interest in the Three Mannors; and Covenants by Articles under Hand and Seal to Convey the said Mannors as he should appoint, in

consideration that he should pay the money due to the Purchasers for the said Mannor of Hawarden, and give him a farther sum agreed on in those Articles.

The Earl, by his Letter dated December 3rd, 1658, summons the Purchasers to come to Sir John Glynne, on December 9 following, where Sir John Glynne declares he was ready to pay them their monies due for the Redemption of Hawarden; and for the Lordships of Hope & Mould, comes to an agreement with the Purchasers by Articles Dated December 9, wherein he Covenants, That the Earl shall Convey to them those Two Mannors in satisfaction, and Discount off the monies due to them and laid out in the Purchase of those Two Mannors: the Redemption money of Hawarden being cast up, came to 9,000*l*., which the said Purchasers did receive of the said Sir John Glynne, by the appointment of the said Earl, testified under his Hand and Seal.

In pursuance of these several Agreements, the Earl and his Lady, by Fines, Recoveries, Feoffments, and Deeds enrolled, do Convey the Mannor of Hawarden to Trustees for Sir John Glynne, and the Mannors of Hope and Mould to Trustees for the Purchasers. Releases and Discharges pass on all parts, and possession quietly continued for nine years, untill the year 1663; when the said Charles Earl of Derby brought his Bill in Parliament, in order to be restored to the said Mannors of Hope & Mould only, and the Mannor of Hawarden Purchased by Sir John Glynne, was not comprehended in the Bill; which Bill at that time did pass both Houses of Parliament, though Twenty seven Lords entered their Protestations against the Bill, with their Reasons, and six voted against it, but his late Majesty King Charles the Second denied his Royal assent thereto.

But His said Majesty notwithstanding, upon the Petition of the said Earl, was graciously pleased in June, 1663, to refer the whole matter unto the arbitration of the Right Honourable the Earl of Clarendon, Lord High Chancellor, the Earl of Southampton, Lord High Treasurer, the Lord Roberts, now Earl of Radnor, the Lord Privy Seal, and the Lord Ashley, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Who, on the 30th of March, '64, humbly certified unto his said Majesty, that they had often heard the said Earl and the Purchasers of Hope and Mould, and that after several meetings between the Parties, and Six Hundred Pounds of the money due upon the Account, being by the Purchasers voluntarily abated to the Earl at their Mediation, it was on or about the 16th of July, 1663, jointly agreed between them before the said Referees, That the Earl should pay upon the 26th day of March, 1664, at one entire payment to the said Purchasers, the sum of 11,000*l*., That upon payment of the said sum of 11,000*l*. at the time aforesaid, the said Purchasers should reconvey to the said Earl and his Heirs, the Mannors of Hope and Mould.

That the Earl having done nothing towards the performance of the said Agreement within the time

appointed, the said Lords Referees, at the request of the Purchasers, and as in Justice they conceived themselves obliged, certified the whole Proceedings before them, upon the said Reference unto His said Majesty.

Whereupon His said Majesty by order under His Sign Manual, dated the 14th June, 1664, did signify His Royal Pleasure, That having seen the said Report, and having considered of the Proceedings had before the said Lords Referees in that matter, as the same stood certified by the said Report, His Majesty declared, that he was fully satisfied therewith; and His said Majesty did thereby discharge the said Reference, and left the Purchasers from thenceforth to the free and quiet enjoyment of the Estate in the said Mannors; since which time, the Purchasers have quietly enjoyed the premises until about the year 1676, when the Earl of Derby delivered Declarations of Ejectment for the Mannor of Hope in the Exchequer; upon which a special Verdict was found, and oftentimes argued in that Court. And upon a division of the Court of Exchequer in their Judgements, there being Two Judges against Two, the Cause was adjourned into the Exchequer-Chamber, to be Argued before all the Judges of England; where after several arguments and debates Judgement was given by the Majority of the Judges, for my Lord of Derby to recover upon this reason. Because the Mannor of Hope being given by Richard the Third to the Ancestors of the Earl of Derby in Tail, and the Reversion left in the Crown they were of Opinion that Charles, Earl of Derby, could not bar his Issue.

Which Mannor of Hope was recovered against John Trevor, Esq., that being allotted to Sir John Trevor, his Grand-father, upon the Partition, as the greatest part of his share of the Purchase; which Mannor of Hope was absolutely recovered by the Earl of Derby against Mr. Trevor, and for the loss of which he had not the least Recompense from the Earl, who hath brought Actions for the Mean Profits against Mr. Trevor and his Tenants.

And the Mannors of HAWARDEN and MOULD are since the said Purchase thereof from the said Earl either by settlements made upon Marriage, by Sales, or Mortgages thereof, or by other means for valuable Considerations, come into the hands of several Purchasers, or are become Securities for great Sums of money (bona fide) Lent or settled in Marriage either in Jointure, or as provision for children or otherwise.

The Bill requires that a new Equity of Redemption be created by a Law, after a Purchase so fairly Transacted and made, in pursuance of Contracts and Agreements desired, and first moved and solicited by the Earl of Derby himself, and that after so long an enjoyment by the Purchasers of thirty two years, and several mean Purchases since. And that, notwithstanding these Contracts and all these subsequent Transactions, the Earl of Derby shall have again the said Three Lordships of Hawarden, Hope, and Mould, paying them their monies (bona fide) disbursed, they dis-counting all

the Rents and Profits; but first limits their allowance to proofs impossible to be made by them, who being absolute Purchasers kept no Accounts; and the Purchase being made by doubled Bills, bought at several times of several persons, and at different Rates, the proof of which by Rules of Chancery (as the Bill requires) no man can make, nor in reason can it be expected for them, after all evidences and acquittances given in, and mutual discharges past so many years ago."

Gresford.

WM. TREVOR PARKINS.

Notes.

[1241] CURIOUS LETTER ADDRESSES.

A watchful old "letter-sorter" at the CHESTER Post Office, of days gone by, once gave me the two addresses following, which he had copied from letters that had passed through his hands at the Chester office. He had sent one of them at the time, he told me, to the local papers, but it has some claim, I think, to be reinserted in *THE SHEAF*:—

"The following lines formed the superscription of a letter, brought in the London post-bag to Chester, in the course of last week [c. 1842]:—

Pray Postman—take heed—let your fingers be clean,
In yon corner there sits your great Mistress, the Queen,*

Who's placed there to guard me from two-penny fee,
That Letters, like Lieges, may ride and be free.

Now carry me westward to FIFTY and ONE
In CRANE STREET, and then, Sir, with me you have done.

I do not say this to the Postman of Leicester,
But to him of the VENERABLE City of—CHESTER."

* The Letter Stamp.

The writer of this rhyming direction was Mr. JOHN VENABLES, then of London, but a native of Chester. He was son of Mr. Samuel Venables, Master of the Blue Coat Hospital in this city, and was author of the series of *Local Rhymes*, by "John," several of which have already appeared in these columns.

On the 23rd June, 1859, there was posted at the Chester Post Office (fortunately, or it might never have reached its destination) a letter with the following address:—

"Mistralling es is
eagen too is
lodohep
edolinston chaser"

This was a puzzler for a long while to our old "sorter," but it seems he spelt it out at last to read thus,—

"Mr. Allen, as is
Agent to his Lordship,
Eccleston, Cheshire."

Judging by the direction alone, the letter itself must have been a perfect phonetic study!

T. HUGHES.

Queries.

[1242] THE COMEDIAN MUNDEN.

What connexion had MUNDEN, the celebrated Comedian of 70 years ago, with CHESTER and the borders? I have seen it stated that in 1820, at the Anniversary of the "Gwyneddigion Society," held in London, he enlivened the guests with his mimic powers; and, in responding to the toast of his health, said, "I love the Welsh, for generally speaking, they are good and loyal subjects—besides, I have passed many of my youthful days in Chester, and on the borders of the Principality, where I always experienced the greatest kindness and friendship."

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

[1243] THE MAYOR'S ATTENDANCE UPON THE JUDGES.

I noticed that the civic Sword and Mace were *carried* before the Mayor's carriage to and from the Castle, and also placed behind the Mayor in Court: but I always understood that the MAYOR OF CHESTER had the privilege of having his sword not only *held* before the Queen and her representative on State occasions, but also of having it so held *unsheathed*. Is this so? and, if so, why did not our worthy Mayor exercise and maintain the full rights and privileges which belong to his office?

B. D. J.

Replies.

[1244] DR. BORLASE AND W. BLUNDELL, THE CAVALIER, ON LATHAM SPAW.

[Nos. 424, 449.—Dec. 18, 1878; Jan. 1, 1879.]

We are indebted to Dr. BORLASE, physician, of CHESTER, for the only account of LATHAM SPAW which is of any importance. This treatise was first printed in 1670, and was followed in 1672 by "A Further Account of Latham Spaw," from the same pen. Dr. Borlase sent copies of both productions to Mr. BLUNDELL, but they are no longer to be found at CROSBY. The Chetham Library in Manchester possesses a copy of the earlier, and Col. FISHWICK of Boothdale has the later, work. The following letters which passed between Dr. Borlase and the "Cavalier" may be of some interest to your readers:—

Dr. Borlase to Wm. Blundell, who had sent him an epitaph on the Duke of Albemarle.

"1670, May.

Though I did never dare pretend to the least acuteness (having had many cross accidents to

embitter the better part of my life), I must acknowledge (as what principally contributed to the extent of my years) that sometimes friends, & those not of the lowest character, have honoured me with the like; than which nothing, unless I would know how to come by one or two more of the same exemplars, would otherwise oblige me.

I have, but not in return (the trifle hath no weight with such a present), sent you my attempt on LATHAM SPAW, writ indeed in compliance, yet in much sincerity, and being your neighbor spring, cannot be ill resented, though from the rough hand of, &c."

This letter, with its two long rambling sentences, may be taken as a sample of the style of Dr. Borlase's printed treatises.

Wm. Blundell to Dr. Borlase, who had sent him some new printed copies of his book entitled

"A Further Account of Latham Spaw."

"You love to oblige your friends, and you have an excellent grace in doing it. Your further account of LATHAM SPAW hath given a further testimony of your love to me in particular, and of your charity to all that frequent it. The learned, no doubt, will praise your work, while I can presume no more but to commend your noble intentions, and that excellent pen whereby you express your thoughts.

To these waters of yours, next unto God & my parents, I do certainly owe my life. 'Tis now about 4 or 5 weeks since I gave them another visit, by reason of our old acquaintance. I was pretty well when I went; I drank them 11 or 12 days, and returned perfectly well home. Yet I find them somewhat costly, for my stomach is so good that I eat all before me.

"Hark! Our cook knocks to the dresser, and so you gain a release from the rude hand of your servant."

Here is another letter from Wm. Blundell to Dr. Borlase, dated July 15th, 1675, relating to a publication of the latter's on the "*Reduction of Ireland*." This letter contains nothing of interest excepting the following postscript, in which Mr. Blundell gives his correspondent a flattering opinion of his work from RICHARD (afterwards Sir Richard) BELLING, a noted writer on Irish affairs:—

"I shall use the freedom you require by giving you verbatim Mr. Belling's words to me in his letter of 19th May, viz. :—'Upon advertisement you were pleased to give me I enquired for & found Dr. Borlase's book of the '*Reduction of Ireland*, &c.,' which in truth is an elaborate work, & gives us a more perfect account of the Governors of this Kingdom digested into a more methodical order, than I have observed in any other writer on that subject.'"

Birkdale.

T. E. GIBSON.

[1245] A MERSEY "ATALANTA."

[No. 1201.—June 30.]

Your correspondent, Mr. GIBBON, vividly reminds me of some very long forgotten facts respecting the overturning of Mr. Ashton's Privateer. My great-grandfather, who was at this time on a short visit at the Ashtons', at Woolton Hall (being an old and intimate acquaintance of the head of that family), was expecting his son from London, where he had embarked in business as a merchant. They were to go direct to the Privateer, on board of which a *ball* had been arranged by their host. Fortunately the London coach broke down on the road, and so delayed the arrival of my grandfather in time for the festivities: otherwise, your humble correspondent would not have lived to tell you that on that sad and sorrowful day the victims were in the midst of their dancing—to which circumstance the accident was wholly attributed by some of our pious ancestors.

X.

[1246] CHESHIRE HERONRIES.

[No. 1226.—July 14.]

From an article entitled "Heron and Heronries in Cheshire," by Mr. NICHOLSON, of Bowdon, in *The Manchester City News* of Nov. 14, 1874, it appears that there were then four Heronries in this County besides the one in EATON PARK, viz., at Beckett's Wood, ASTON HALL, near Frodsham; BURTON HALL, on the River Dee; HOOTON, on the Mersey; and at TABLEY PARK.

Mr. Nicholson states that some twenty years ago the Heron also built at ARLEY, COMBERMERE, DUNHAM MASSEY, and OULTON PARK. "A member Ches. Soc. N. S." will also find a very interesting note on "the Heron as a trout fisher" in *The Manchester City News* of June 7, 1879.

Gatley.

P. M. HERFORD.

In the woods adjoining ASTON HALL, in the ancient parish of RUNCORN, Herons have been accustomed to build for many generations. On the 22nd of last month I saw one rise from the ground, even within sight of a public lane.

A few days afterwards, upon mentioning the circumstance to a farm labourer, residing in the district, he said that when his work led him to some of the retired spots he occasionally saw four or five Herons together. It is a pleasure to know that they have maintained hitherto undisturbed possession, but whether the number of nests increases I cannot say.

July 20.

E. M.

AUGUST 4, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

August 4.—Prince Arthur, son of King Henry VIII., came to Chester with his retinue, remaining there until September 10th.....	1498
„ 5.—Chester new Bishopric endowed by Henry VIII.....	1541
„ 7.—Robert Barnston, of Crewe Hill and Chester, father of Colonel Roger Barnston, of Foregate-street, died	1783
„ 8.—George Booth, Lord Delamere, died at Dunham Massie.....	1684
„ 10.—William Brook, Esq., last male representative of the Brooks of Upton, died	1734

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1247] THE CORDWAINERS' VENISON FEAST, 1621.

From the MS. Records of the ancient Guild or Company of CORDWAINERS at CHESTER, as preserved in the earliest existing Minute Book of the Brotherhood, I cull the following particulars of a FEAST, the first and last of its kind so far as I can trace, indulged in by the Company in the days of the canny Scot, King James the First.

About the period in question, a change was imminent in the Representation of the City; and as is common enough in some small boroughs even in our own day, a little amiable "nursing" of the constituency was being carried on by Sir THOMAS SAVAGE, of Rook Savage, baronet, on behalf of his son and heir, whom he intended for the vacancy. The Trade Companies formed in effect the electoral body of the city, and the astute baronet seems to have felt that the safest way to the hearts and votes of the CORDWAINERS was down their throats. Accordingly his park-keeper at CLIFTON, the family seat near Runcorn, was instructed to select and shoot a good buck from the herd, and send it off to Chester for the refectory of the Company, to whom the flavour of Venison was, we may presume, a something all but unknown. Be that as it may, the Brethren proceeded to make merry over their unusual gift, as the following entries in the Minute Book will show:—

"A note of such Charges as was paid at the Feasts of the Veneson, w^{ch} the Right Worthl S^r Thomas Savage, Knyghte and barronett, sent vnto the Company; w^{ch} Veneson was Eaten at Mr. Thomas Ince's howse the ijijth daye Sep^r, 1621.

Inprimis paid for one measure Wheate, att iijs.
 Paide for bread and bere at the same feaste vs.
 Paide for one wholl motton vjs. viijd.
 Paide for three Joynts Veale..... ijs. vjd.
 Paide for spices to season the meate ... xviijd.
 Paide for candle and capp pap'..... vjd.
 Paide for ij poundes suett..... vjd.
 Paide for butter for the pastie Crustes ijs.
 Paide for bakeinge the Veneson xd.
 Paide to hym that brought the Veneson ijs. iiijd.
 Paide for Clarrett wine at the feaste ... vs.
 More geven to M^ris Ince, for flar, & makeinge cleane the lynnyn ijs."

Mr. THOMAS INCE, shoemaker, had been Sheriff of the city in 1619, and had had some experience of the Corporation Feasts of that day: we may be sure, therefore, that he and his good dame performed their part as hosts with both dignity and credit. There is generally one sour grape, however, in every bunch; and Thomas Ryder seems to have been the thorn in his brother Cordwainers' side. Perhaps he had had the cold shoulder at the banquet, in reward for his litigious conduct on many previous occasions; perhaps he was a Radical in his day, and objected to the cost of the "trimmings" to the Venison:—thus much is certain, that in the same year's Accounts I read—

"Rec'd of Thomas Ryder for his fyne for exolayminge against the Stewards, & said he would indite the Companye, and woulde make our Charter to shake..... xijd."

The outcome of this generous feed, and of similar little ticklings of the appetite of the electors, was that, two years afterwards, viz., in 1623, Mr. JOHN SAVAGE, afterwards second LORD SAVAGE, became M.P. for CHESTER in the two short Parliaments then next forthcoming. T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1248] OWEN GLYNDWR'S REVOLT.

The following extracts from the 36th Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records, relating to the Welsh Records and Recognizance Rolls of the Palatinate of Chester, are of interest, as throwing some light on the state of affairs in this neighbourhood during the reign of Henry IV.

Soon after Bolingbroke's usurpation there commenced a series of troubles, of which very little conception can in our day be formed,—troubles which laid the foundation of the civil contests between the Houses of York and Lancaster that for several generations involved the country in all the horrors of civil war.

There had been almost unbroken peace between the English and the Welsh for about 120 years. Nevertheless the latter had borne the annexation of the Principality to the Crown of England with reluctance. English laws and customs were forced upon them, and English officers appointed to carry them into execution. Almost all the castles in the marches of Wales had towns close by them inhabited by the English; and the charters of those towns gave great liberties to the English, but no Welshman might be a burges or purchase land therein. Here is an instance extracted from the Report above-mentioned:—

"1366, August 22nd. Grant to Jevan ap Henry by Edward Prince of Wales, on a fine of 10 marks, of one messuage and 9½ acres of land in 'Le Paas de HOPEDALE' of English land; which same tenement an Englishman named PYMER purchased from Edward I. at his conquest of Wales, and gave it to Richard his son and Angharet his wife, and their heirs; which Richard and Angharet had issue one Margery, who, after the death of the said Richard, married Henry, son of David ap Cadugan, a Welshman; of whom issued the said Jevan ap Henry, a Welshman, who could not hold English land without license, on which account the said tenements escheated to the Prince. (39 to 41 Edward III., m. 1, d. [8].)"

Nay, in the reign of Henry IV., so severe were the laws against the Welsh that no person born, on both sides, of Welsh parents was allowed to purchase property even near to the cities or towns on the Marches

Wales, on pain of forfeiture. No Welshman could be received into any incorporated town; and if he had been settled in any such before, he was to find security for his good behaviour. They were totally disqualified from any civil office, were never allowed to carry weapons, and, lastly, Englishmen were prohibited from marrying Welshwomen.

In the reign of Richard II. an attachment to the person of the King appears to have sprung up amongst the Welsh, which was shared by the inhabitants of the county of CHESTER, and they were quite prepared to follow any one who would lead his countrymen against the usurping dynasty.

This leader appeared in the person of "the wild and irregular, yet undoubtedly valiant OWEN GLYNDWR. Owen had received a liberal education. He entered the Inns of Court, and became a barrister: whilst there, he attracted the notice of Richard II., to whose household he became attached as one of the "squires of the body." He seems to have quitted his forensic profession for the greater attractions of a military life; and he accompanied King Richard as his shield-bearer in his wars in France and Ireland, and was with him when he was taken prisoner in FLINT Castle.

I judge he was knighted before the deposition of Richard, as he is described as a knight when appearing as one of the witnesses in the celebrated cause between

Sir Richard le SCROPE and Sir Robert le GROSVEFOR. On the fall of his patron he acted as Esquire to the Earl of Arundel, and afterwards retired to his native country, remaining faithful to the last to the cause of his Royal Master. He married a FLINTSHIRE lady, viz., Margaret, the daughter of Sir DAVID HANMER, of Hanmer, one of the Judges of the King's Bench, by whom he had a large family; and he probably would have ended his days in peaceful obscurity, but for his feud with his Norman neighbour, Lord REGINALD DE GREY, of RUTHIN Castle, which resulted in his appearing in open revolt against King Henry IV.

The history of this revolt, of the invasion of the Scotch under DOUGLAS, of the subsequent insurrection of the Percies, and the death of HOTSPUR at the Battle of Shrewsbury, form a prominent part in the History of England, and have been dramatized by Shakespeare.

JOHN TREVOR, Bishop of SAINT ASAPH, was on the 13th August, 1309, appointed Chamberlain of Chester, Flint, and North Wales by Richard, who had previously made him Bishop: but, soon after his appointment, he pronounced the sentence of deposition on his King in FLINT CASTLE, and also went as Ambassador to Spain, to justify to that Court the proceedings of Bolingbroke. His conduct in this matter aroused the indignation of GLYNDWR, who avenged himself upon the Bishop by marching to SAINT ASAPH and burning down the Cathedral, the Palace, and the Canons' Houses. TREVOR subsequently transferred his allegiance from King Henry (who had confirmed his appointment as Chamberlain) to GLYNDWR, and remained his faithful supporter until his death in 1410 at Paris. ROBERT LANCASTER, Abbot of the Monastery of VALLE CRUCIS, was appointed his successor; and the grant of the temporalities of the Bishopric to him, "Collation to benefices excepted, in aid of the repairs of the Cathedral" will also be found among the extracted items, which I shall hereafter quote.

In future articles I shall relate the story of the Revolt, as it has come down to us in the Proclamations, Writs, Commissions, Warrants, Pardons, &c., remaining of record in the Palatine Court of Chester until 1853, but now rendered accessible to the nation at the Public Record Office, London.

Curzon Park.

H. TAYLOR.

[1249] CHESHIRE PARISH CHURCHES.

I remember seeing, some years ago, a short account of WAVERTON Church and Parish from the pen of MR. HILL, the present Rector; and it struck me at the time how useful and instructive it would be to the ordinary readers of the newspapers, if the clergy of each parish within the county could only be induced to follow Mr. Hill's example. The appearance of THE SHEAF brought back to my mind the same idea, and I would venture to bring the matter under your notice, with a view of asking you to press it upon the attention

of the Clergy. In *Ormerod* we have the material out of which writers may draw their inspiration; but that valuable work being quite out of the reach of the people, it is almost a duty, in these days of cheap literature, to supply the masses with information about their country; so as to impress upon their untutored minds how many interesting spots there are within it not only worthy of their admiration, but of their regard also.

The old Parish Churches have been sanctified by a thousand local events in the lives of men and women; and in the course of centuries they have been surrounded by the silent dead, whose memories in many instances must be very sweet to those who have succeeded to their inheritance. And yet how little do the living know of the history of their dead sires; aye, even of their old homes! But once put them on the pathway to knowledge, and there will forthwith grow up among us a new generation, who, learning to reverence the past, will enjoy the present all the more; and at the same time acquire the habit of appreciating at their true value the sacred land-marks in our history, which have helped to give us a just pre-eminence among the Christian nations of the world.

"The race of man, resembling leaves of trees,
Buds and expands—then, withering, disappears;
But man again shall live—to die no more."

So said a great writer, who, in the silent contemplation of the tombs, saw nothing more terrible in the grave than "*a rest to the people of God.*" But upon many a tomb-stone he found useful sermons; and I cannot but believe that if the people were taught to take a more living interest in the old historical chapters of the Parish Churches and Churchyards of our land, a store of antiquarian knowledge must be brought together of a truly precious sort. The *old churches* are just being replaced by more modern structures, and, as we know to our cost, old tomb-stones, old monuments, and old woodwork disappear; but a careful scribe might at least preserve to us the records of their history, and so keep in everlasting remembrance the many evidences our country possesses of the godliness, the taste, and the charity of our forefathers.

W. P. M.

Queries.

[1250] THE MAYOR'S ALLOWANCE.

Were not the Mayors of Chester in the olden time in the habit of receiving a dotation to assist them in meeting, to a certain extent, the expenses of their year of office? If so, when did the practice cease? Of course I am aware that the Chief Magistrates of London, Liverpool, &c., have substantial sums annually allotted to them for that purpose, but my present enquiry refers solely to Chester.

I understand the now occupant of the civic chair received, under the "Corrupt Practices Act," a specific sum to cover the cost of the State Carriage and servants employed for the proper reception of Her Majesty's Judges at the recent election enquiry.

CAMBRO-BRITON.

[1251] A CURATE'S CHARACTER.

In an old scrapbook of about the beginning of this century I find amongst numerous letters, &c., relating mostly to Cheshire, the following MS. copy of the Answer to an enquiry sent to a Revd. MR. THELWALL, as to the character of a Curate:—

"Sir,

You enquire of me the character of Paul Lidgate, my late Curate.

I have been told that Paul Lidgate offered Vincent Clarke a shilling to damn me black, and then shoot at me as I turned a Hedge Nook.

I have heard of some Villains who shot Thomas Thynne, Esq., as he was walking with Ladies in the Haymarket;—I have heard of some Villains who condemned to death their King of glorious memory; but I never yet heard of a Curate offering a Man a Shilling to damn his Rector black, and then shoot at him as he turned a Hedge Nook.

I have been upwards of forty years Rector of this Parish, during which time I have employed the old Men in labour, and the old Women in spinning; I have daily buried the Dead, married Maidens, and christened Children, and daily spent hours in my study to qualify me for the Pulpit and the Press. And shall such a Man be damned black, and then shot at as he turns a Hedge Nook, at Paul Lidgate's instigation?

This is the character of Paul Lidgate, my late Curate, and if such a Man will suit you as a Curate, I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant,

J. RUSSELL."

Is anything known of these two Rectors? Mr. THELWALL, I presume, would be a neighbour of ours on the Welsh side?

M. L. T.

[1252] POOR OLD B.

I find in an old pocket diary running over the years 1810-12, once the daily companion of some well-to-do Chester tradesman, a memorandum to the following effect:—

"Poor old B. ! after a long and useful official career in Ireland, to be drowned like a dog at last ! —a sad, sad end! I was present at the Inquest."

Can any local student of past days tell me anything more about this "poor old B.," and explain how and where he came to his unnatural end? What had been his official position in Ireland?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

Replies.

[1253]

BURIED HORNS.

[No. 1002.—Jan. 28.]

The account given by "R. O." of the quantity of cows' horns found buried in his yard, shews how ignorant the Cheshire Farmer once was of the value of Bone. A rather singular use had, however, been discovered in NANTWICH for the "pith" of cows' horns. Some 60 or 60 years ago, the retaining walls of the small garden plots in front of some houses adjoining the street at the ACTON end of the Town, nearly opposite the turn of the road to Wrenbury, were made entirely with the pith of the horn (the frontal ends forming the face), to the height of 4 or 5 feet. These have long disappeared, doubtless to enrich some Cheshire pasture.

Tushingham Hall.

B. LL. V.

[1254] THE ARCHDEACONRY OF CHESTER.

[No. 1045, 1198.—Feb. 25, June 23.]

All the Lichfield Act Books, or Diocesan Registers referred to, were pretty well examined by your correspondent some years ago; and everything of value was then extracted for the 2d. Edit. of *Mr.* (not *Dr.*, a title he never assumed before his name, and eschewed by all his connections), ORMEROD'S *History of Cheshire*. The rest of the matter for the most part consists of old ecclesiastical forms, repeated over and over again, being verbose commissions, letters, &c., which, briefly abstracted, would probably be of service to the parish or hundred historian.

But I have no doubt whatever that Mr. Charles Howard of Lichfield's suggestion ended in Bishop KNEKE discovering that instead of there being "14 or 15 books" relating exclusively to *this* archdeaconry, they related to *all* the archdeaconries. So that you must divide 14 or 15 by 3 or 4, to get at the actual number of volumes filled up with purely Cheshire matter; the fact being that these 14 or 15 books contain the business of the whole ancient Diocese, from Edward the First's time. With the exception of a few leaves missing at the end and beginning of two or three of them, they are beautifully preserved large folio vellum volumes, and seem to be of a date coeval with the earliest of the respective entries. X.

[1255]

FLINT OLD CHURCH.

[Nos. 1167, 1229.—June 2, July 14.]

The interesting note which "G. T." has sent to THE SHEAF about the Flint Old Church, contains a reference to THOMAS SALUSBURY, of LEADBROOK (near Flint), who is said to have died in the year 1602, aged 42. He was son of Sir JOHN SALUSBURY, of LLEWENI, near

Denbigh, by his wife JANE MIDDLETON, of CHESTER, and was born at Lleweni in the year 1560. He married *Margaret Hookes*, of Leadbrook, and so acquired the estate: and upon his death his son THOMAS succeeded him in possession, and afterwards married *Jane Massie*, of Coddington, in Cheshire, by whom he had one son and fifteen daughters. His descendants remained settled at Leadbrook for many generations, and the *Davieses* of Gwysanney, the *Morgans* of Golden Grove, and other eminent Welsh families claim descent from the members of this branch of the Salisbury family. They also owned a considerable property at SHOTWICK in Cheshire, which eventually passed by demise to the Breretons, and from them to the Trelawneys. Mr. William Lewis Trelawney, who got these properties from the Breretons, afterwards became Sir William Lewis Salusbury Trelawney, Bart., and his son (now living) Sir John Salusbury Trelawney, Bart., is cousin to Mr. Trelawney, who now resides at Shotwick.

W. B. L.

[1256] THE CHESTER ELECTION PETITION.

[No. 1,236.—July 21.]

"L. L." wishes to know when the "quip" upon Mr. Justice Lush's name first saw the light.

I think I can answer the question: but for the benefit of the uninitiated in such matters I must premise that, in the Court of Exchequer at Westminster, there are ancient officers called respectively the "Tubman" and the "Postman." They are members of the junior or outer Bar, nominated to these posts by the Lord Chief Baron, and they have certain priorities over other members of the Bar in bringing matters before the Court. They occupy seats, partitioned off from the rest, at either end of the first row assigned to stuff gown counsel. Mr. Justice Lush, early in his career, and even then presenting somewhat of the good-tempered and comfortable appearance which becomes him now, was appointed to the office of "Tubman;" and upon his taking his seat for the first time in his "Tub," the late witty and humorous Mr. Baron Alderson handed down to the Bar the following impromptu:—

Good news, good news, both young and old,
Into the Exchequer rush!
For there you'll daily find, I'm told,
A tub quite full of Lush.

H. L.

I remember seeing something very similar to the *Lush* pun in the pages of *Figaro* some years ago, during some remarks on the trial of Bannister, the murderer, at CHESTER. It connected the fact, that he committed the crime under the influence of Lush, with the name of the worthy Judge who tried him,—the same who sat with his brother MANISTY the other day to try the Chester Petition.

Cambridge.

JOHN HUGHES.

AUGUST 11, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- Aug. 12.—George IV., born Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester 1762
 „ 13.—Edward Whitby, son of the then Mayor of Chester, chosen Recorder of the city 1613
 „ 14.—Bowdon Vicarage, Cheshire, mortgaged to the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty 1816
 „ 16.—Charles Wyndham Stanhope, 7th Earl of Harrington, of Gawsworth Hall, Cheshire, born 1809
 „ 17.—Great Rain-storm in Cheshire and on Welsh coast. The Dee in certain places rose 20 feet. Llandulas railway bridge washed away by the flood 1879

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1257] BISHOP JOHN HANMER, 1623-29.

The kindness of Mr. E. BRESE, of Portmadoc, enables us to print to-day a Letter from the then Bishop of ST. ASAPH, JOHN HANMER, addressed to his "verie Lovinge Cosen," ROBERT DAVIES, of Gwysanney, co. Flint. The Letter is without date, but bears internal evidence of having been written about 1624, soon after his lordship's consecration. The name of the parish even is not given, but it was probably CILCAIN, the rectory of which had long been held in *commendam* by Bishop PARRY; the vicar at that period being the Rev. Thomas Morgan, a relative, perhaps, of ROBERT MORGAN, Esq., of Golden Grove, the previous lessee of the tithes. Mr. Morgan died (as did also Bishop Parry) while the three years' lease was in being; and had been succeeded therein by his son-in-law, "Captain" THOMAS DAVIES, to whose conduct in the affair the new Bishop does not bear very happy testimony:—

"S'r,—I haue receued y'r l're of this daye, and will answer the points in order as they lye. That the Captaine saith he made no more but 40lb p' annu' of the tithes, I cannot gainsay him who ame not privye to his good husbandrie; but sure I ame that, in all Bushopp PARRY's time, it hath bin sett the one half to his Curats and the other to his farmer, wh' he alwaies sett at xxx lb, reserving the woole and lambs to himself. Yea, the yeare that he died he sett his moytie to Mr. ROBERT MORGAN, for 34 lb for 3 yeares if he shold live so longe, without the woole and lambe, wh' the gentelman knoweth full well if he

wold be pleased to acknowledge it. This being so, I have no reason to discredit my tithe by taking 40 lb for all, when 60 lb was continuallye payde in my predecessors daies for the tithe corne and hay onlie. If I proue not this to be true I will willinglye give care to yo'r offer.

Secondlie, wheras you advise me to press no farther then to haue the uttermost of the thing, and not to stande upon a hastie bargaine; my answer is, that this point in the later part is altogether untrue, for as much as the Captaine ceased upon my tithes the seconde yeare, of his owne hastie will and might, and without anie bargaine at all.

Thirddie, wheras you desire that he might be tenant of the tithes for this yeare, though I be ielous of having anie more dealing with him, yet for yo'r sake I shalbe content to let him enioye it at 60 lb this yeare. Good Cosen, be pleased to receaue this my generall answer. I cannot be enduced to accept of 10 lb with 30 lb or so for 60 lb. I have bin at greates charges w'ch I am content to remitt. I will not take upo' me the taking up of the information w'ch is at the Councill against him. In a word, if he & you do come on as you said with me, and that too verie speedilie, I will not onlie remitt my charges but also forgive him as much of his principall as he desired at the time of bargayning. if this offer be not now accepted, I will hereafter be free and take my courses in a higher alioye; wh', I take God to witnesse, I do as yet forbear hoping that the man will come to his understanding, and not wickedlie and willfullie wear the wages of his owne hurt and damage. I thanke you for my . . . Farewell, &c.

Yo'rs, &c,

JOH: ASAPH.

(In dorso) To my Worthy friends and verie Lovinge Cosen ROBERT DAVIES Esqre, at GWISSANNEY his house."

The "Captain" long survived both his brother and the Bishop; and in 1643, being then Lieut.-Colonel, was an active commander for King Charles in the Civil War, and was Constable or Governor of HAWARDEN Castle in the year named. He died March 7, 1655, having seen his nephew and ward, ROBERT DAVIES the younger, garrison and gallantly defend the family house at GWISSANNEY against the Parliament, though he ultimately had to surrender it to a superior force under the locally celebrated Sir WILLIAM BREBTON.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[1258] OWEN GLYNDWR'S REVOLT.

(Continued from No. 1248.)

In the beginning of Henry's reign, viz., Oct. 29, 1399, Sir Henry Percy, son of the Earl of Northumberland, was appointed Lieutenant and Justice of North

Wales, and Sir William Stanley fought under him against the Scots.

The first signal of coming events is a Warrant of HENRY PRINCE OF WALES (who three days before, November 12, had a grant of the Principality of Wales with all its revenues) dated November 15th, 1399, directed to the Chamberlain of CHESTER, for the repair of all castles, houses, and mills in the Counties of CHESTER, FLINT and North Wales," "on the view of John de Maasy of Podynton" [1 & 2 Hen. 4, m 1 (2).]

A Rebellion in WALES was now imminent, having indeed commenced in CHESHIRE, where RICHARD's cause was always popular; and thus we find that on

"Mar. 15th, 1399-1400, Henry Prince of Wales, as Palatinate of Chester, issued his Writ to the Mayor and two Sheriffs of Chester to make proclamation that all Governors of Castles or fortresses in the Counties of CHESTER, FLINT, North Wales, and elsewhere throughout the power of the Prince should, within 15 days after the proclamation, enter upon the personal custody of the same; "the Prince having heard of evil designs on the part of his enemies as well those of Scotland as those of France, and having consideration to the rebellions commenced by some of the County of Chester." A similar Writ was issued to the Chamberlain [1 & 2 Hen. IV., m. 4 & 5, (8, 1).]

CHESTER itself was too near the scene of revolt not to be a prominent point of interest to the young Prince and his advisers. In all campaigns the commissariat of an army is the first anxiety of its general; and accordingly

"On the 30th September, 1400, Henry issued his Writ to the Mayor and Sheriffs of Chester to provide Provisions for the King and Prince on the occasion of their departure for North Wales 'to put down the rebels' [1 & 2 Henry IV., m. 14]."

On the very next day, viz. October 1, 1400, following up the former Order,

"The Mayor and Sheriffs of CHESTER are commanded to provide 20 archers for the safe conduct of the provisions which the officer of the King and Prince had been commanded to provide in the same City, and to convey them to DENBIGH."

Not satisfied to trust all his eggs to one basket, and aware of the consequences of failure in this particular,—

"October 14, 1400. Henry, Prince of Wales, sends letters to JOHN DE STANLEY, Knight, Lieutenant of Ireland, for the exportation from Ireland to North Wales of 100 quarters of Wheat, 60 qrs. of Oats, and 30 qrs. of Peas, as well for the Provisioning of the Castles of North Wales as for the relief of the Country, great dearth of grain prevailing in those parts. [1 & 2 Hen. IV., m. 15 (3)]."

Rebellion now openly raging, the Prince is inopportunistly summoned, by the King his father, to London by a certain day; whereupon, to make matters as sure as he can during his absence, we find in—

"1401, Jan. 15. Appointment, by Henry Prince of Wales, of Edmund, Earl of Stafford, John, Bishop of Saint Asaph, Reginald, Lord Grey of Ruthin, William Swynburn, and John Maasy, of Podynton, Knight, as his Lieutenants in North Wales for the safe guard and good governance of those parts, and the destruction of the rebels there during the absence of the Prince; he having been ordered by the King to be at London on the Monday before the Purification of Saint Mary. [2 and 3 Hen. IV., m. 7 (1)]."

The next three months proved intensely perilous to the prospects of the new King, for OWEN GLYNDWR had made himself felt in the Marshes of Wales, and one of the royal castles was just then in imminent danger of capture. A peremptory Order [confirming Pennant's statement] comes April 18, 1402, from

"The King to the Chamberlain of Chester, to send immediate aid to the Castle of RUTHIN, in great danger by the sudden invasion of OWEN GLYNDWRDY, who had taken Lord Grey of Ruthin prisoner, as the King, to his great grief, had heard; that HENRY PEROT, governor of DENBIGH Castle, which was near to Ruthin, had ordered his Constable to give his assistance and advice. [2 and 3 Hen. IV., m. 6 (6)]."

The English towns and castles in the border counties of Flint and Denbigh soon felt the pressure of having the rebels in force hovering around them. Trade was at a standstill; inter-communication between place and place was precarious and full of danger, and provisions began to fail. And so, dipping further into those Records, we find that on

"July 8, 1402, Letters of Nicholas Foxwyst, receiver or steward of HAWARDYN, reach the Mayor and Sheriffs of Chester, signifying the appointment by the Lady Salisbury of Madoc de Stafford, Alice, wife of John de Morton, Ellen, wife of William de Kenesley, and Alice le Smylter, as purveyors for her castle and town of Hawardyn, and praying permission for them to enter the City, when requisite, for the purchase of provisions."

The same dearth of which the HAWARDEN people complained was equally felt in the other neighbouring towns. Appeals urgently made to the Prince ended in orders being issued that CHESTER should supply the needed relief. WREXHAM was in dire plight, not, it would seem for food just then, but for something almost dearer to the residents of the North Welsh metropolis. It was the middle of July, and the King's lieges there were feeling the heat in a rather vulnerable point. Nothing stronger to drink than water was available in the little town; and what must have been a terrible thing for the Wrexhamers of that day, there was no beer to be had for love or money! Accordingly, on

"July 11, 1402, William de Hawardyn, clerk, of Chester, becomes surety that David ap David de Wryxham, Howel ap Mathew Wrixham, and Grono le Tailor of Wrixham, traunters [carriers or

pedlars], who had been licensed to buy beer in the city of Chester, should not dispose of such beer to the rebels."

On the same day, John de Helegh and Gruff' ap Ken' became sureties to the same effect for Ievan Lloit of NORTHOP, David ap Grono ap Gruff' of WEPRE, Shan vergh Mad' de Northope, and Leticia of Northope, traunters." Again, on

"July 13, 1452, The Commonalty of freemen of the Lordship of HOPEDALE, petition the Council and Ministers of Prince Henry, shewing that they stood greatly in need of Bread and Beer, and praying that the same might be given them from the City of Chester, out of charity, and in regard to the assiduous watch they made by day and night against the coming of the rebels and enemies of the Prince; four of the said Commonalty becoming sureties that the said Bread and Beer should not be disposed of to the rebels, and the following being appointed Porters of the said bread and beer, viz. :—Jor' Brosser, Ievan ap Jor' ap Mad', and Jor' ap Ievan Tailor. [3 & 4 Henry IV., m. 6 (7).]"

Curson Park.

H. TAYLOR.

[1259] SOME OLD ELECTION NOTES.

It is remarkable how strongly political feelings operate upon men's minds, even when the moving cause for zeal and earnest labour has ceased to exist. I have lying before me at this moment a remarkable proof of this in a marked register of "GROSVENORS" and "EGERTONS," who had died since they had been arrayed in "tallies," to do fight, the one set against the other, in the last great struggle between EATON and OULTON.

THE "GROSVENORS" who had departed this life, down to the 20th of February, 1832, amounted to 108; increased to 295 by the 17th of April, 1843; to 403 by the 28th August, 1850; to 488 by the 19th of August, 1857; and to 522 by the 10th of July, 1860.

THE "EGERTONS," who had died to the same dates respectively, came to 76; 243; 370; 452; 493; and the good old soul, who had counted up the dead men with so much care, himself now retired from the scene; and thenceforth "Grosvenors" and "Egertons" passed away without any recording scribe to mark their departure to the land where wicked politicians cease from troubling, and the weary ones are at rest.

There is not a line or a word in the writings, from which I collate these electoral memoranda, that can lead me to determine the political views of the compiler; but that he took a great interest in the Cheshire Elections, and in those of neighbouring boroughs and towns, is evident from the fact that he tells us how it fared with both parties at the General Elections of 1832 as under:—

STOCKPORT.....	Major Marsland.....	551
	John Horatio Lloyd	444
	Henry Marsland	431
	Edward Davies Davenport	237

SOUTH CHESHIRE...	George Wilbraham	2655
	Earl Grosvenor	2410
	Sir Philip Egerton	2300
NORTH CHESHIRE.....	Edward John Stanley	2563
	Tatton Egerton	2422
	J. Tollemache	1511
DENBIGHSHIRE.....	Sir Watkin W. Wynn	2720
	E. M. Biddulph	1608
	Lloyd Kenyon	1389
NORTH SALOP	Hill	2981
	Cotes	2417
	Gore	2012

Of the sixteen competitors, who were then active men of the world, there are but four now living: and if we could but get them to tell us somewhat of their own political history, and of the lessons they have learnt in the eight and forty past years, how surprised we should be to find that the wilderness they had been passing through is not a very wild one, and that they had met with many a green spot in it which can be looked back upon with comfort and satisfaction!

The Elections of 1835 are thus recorded:—"No opposition at Chester; none in this Division of the County; none in South Shropshire, Sir Rowland Hill and Major Gore being returned," It was otherwise in the following places:—

STOCKPORT.....	H. Marsland	532
	Major Marsland.....	482
	E. D. Davenport	361
DENBIGHSHIRE.....	Sir Watkin W. Wynn	2236
	Hon. W. Bagot	1512
	R. M. Biddulph	1259

The Elections of 1837 follow thus:—

CHESTER	Lord Robert Grosvenor ...	1232
	John Jervis.....	1109
	F. D. Eyder.....	352
SOUTH CHESHIRE...	Sir Philip Egerton	8136
	Geo. Wilbraham.....	8032
	Edwin Corbett	2660
FLINTSHIRE	Hon. E. M. Ll. Mostyn ...	901
	Sir Stephen Glynne	936
FLINT BOROUGH...	C. W. D. Dundas.....	591
	Robert Mostyn	393

I send these trifling but interesting notes to THE SHEAF, for the time will come when another hand will be writing out the electoral history of the nineteenth century; and inasmuch as THE SHEAF will then be a necessary work of reference for most matters affecting Cheshire and its borders, I would fain contribute this mite of local information to the greater store of knowledge to be found within its pages.

A CESTRIAN.

Queries.

[1260] THE CHESTER REGATTA.

The celebration within the last few days of this now almost uniformly annual festival, and the fact that I got such a drenching there in the sudden storm that I shall

not very readily forget that day's "pleasure," induce me to ask, through *THE SHEAF*, when these Regattas were first established on the Dee? Some people might have been inclined to suggest that the first attempt of the kind was when King EDGAR had his triumphal procession thereon, years ago; but this once proud article of local faith has lately been so awkwardly assailed in your columns that we must perforce surrender this curious instance in point. I repeat then my Query—at what date was held the first regular Boat Race on the Dee?

M. O. Y.

[1261] BRIAN WALTON, BISHOP OF CHESTER.

Glancing the other day over the first volume of Mr. Augustus Hare's "Walks in London," I found him recording, in an account of the Metropolitan Cathedral and its monuments, that in the Crypt under St. PAUL's there is a tablet to BRIAN, BISHOP OF CHESTER in 1661, five years previous to the Great Fire.

Can any of your correspondents say whether this dignitary really did lie in Old St. Paul's, and if not, where? There must surely be some good reason for this tablet being where it is?

Cambridge.

CANN HUGHES.

[1 22] WESTON THE COMEDIAN.

This once well-known actor on the provincial boards (he was evidently a favourite at Chester) is said to have died under peculiar circumstances either at WREXHAM or OXWORTHY. Is there any record of the event in local theatrical history?

A WOODMAN.

Replies.

[1263] RUSHBEARING.

[Nos. 246, 278, 382, 552.—Sept. 4, 25, Nov. 20, 1878, Mar. 5, 1879.]

I have just met with the following notice of this ancient custom in the *Chester Courant* for August 6, 1810, and have no doubt you will gladly save it from future oblivion by giving it a place in *THE SHEAF*:—

"CHRISTLETON RUSHBEARING. We were sorry to learn that the festivities of this annual fete should have been disgraced by that almost universally reprobated amusement, a Bull-bait. After this savage practice has fallen into disrepute and disgrace amongst the most uncultivated parts of the island, it is mortifying to us to record a transaction so disgraceful in the immediate vicinity of the polished city of CHESTER."

I suppose there will be one or more patriarchs of Christleton village who still remember the above fact; and who may be able to inform us not only when Rushbearing as an annual custom ceased to be observed, but

also if the humane sport of Bull-baiting has ever since the date named disgraced the annals of that Chester suburb.

G. T.

[1264] THOMAS BATESON, ORGANIST OF CHESTER CATHEDRAL.

[No. 1175.—June 9.]

In answer to "S. H. C.'s" query, I am glad to be able, from the Treasurer's Annual Accounts of the Dean and Chapter of Chester, to offer the following chronological List of the Organists, never before printed. Having gone through the entire series of Accounts, running over nearly 340 years, it may be taken for granted that my List is as nearly as possible a complete one:—

- 1541. Byrchaley, John.
- 1550. Barnys, Thomas, formerly a Conduet in the Quire.
- 1563. White, Mr.
- 1569. Stevenson, Robert.
- 1602. Bateson, Thomas.
- 1609. Allen, John, formerly Chorister, and afterwards Conduet.
- 1613. Done, Michael.
- 1614. Jones, Thomas.
- 1637. Newbold, Richard, "generosus."
- 1643. Jewett, Randle.
- 1661. Stringer, Mr. Peter, Minor Canon, formerly Chorister, and Conduet,
- 1673. Stringer, Mr. John, Minor Canon.
- 1686. Key, Mr. William, Minor Canon.
- 1699. Demontioall, John.
- 1704. White, Edmund.
- 1715. Davies, William, afterwards Conduet.
- 1726. Worrall, Benjamin, previously Conduet.
- 1727. Baker, Edmund, Conduet.
- 1764. Orme, Edward, Conduet.
- 1776. Bailey, John, Conduet.
- 1803. Bailey, Edward, Conduet.
- 1823. Black, George.
- 1824. Haylett, Thomas.
- 1840. Gunton, Frederick.
- 1877. Bridge, Joseph Cox.

It will be seen that the name enquired after, THOMAS BATESON, figures as fifth in the list of Organists; and I shall be able, in a supplementary Reply, to give some interesting particulars of him, a week or two hence.

T. HUGHES.

[1265] KATHERINE GRAY, THE CHESTER POTTEREE.

[No. 1217.—July 7, 1880.]

In reference to the above named, I would draw the attention of "A. B. S." to MORTIMER's *History of Wirrall*, page 187, in foot note.

"The houses in the village of BEBINGTON are in general very insignificant. The owner of one, however, seems resolved to attract attention; he has mounted several pieces of mock ordnance on a

turret or bastion, directly commanding the approach from BIRKENHEAD, and guarded them with a variety of military figures; the front entrance to his house is even more formidably protected by a quantity of stuffed reptiles, which appear ready to spring from their haunts in his garden as the unwary passenger approaches. In the walls are inserted several apparently ancient tombstones, on one of which is the following curious epitaph:—

M.S.M: em: OR, yo F. Kath A. ri Neg. Rayo Hang'd
FRO P mab. VSyll. Fetol. if. Ele SSol ayb. yea. RThan.
DC.L. Ays. Hego. Therp Elfa. Nd. No. Wa. He. stur.
N'D. Toe

ART. HH. Ers:l. Fy EWEE. Pin Gfr I Ends.. Letmea
Dviseab. Ateyo Vrgr. JE. Fand Dryy. Ourey Es.

Which, when reduced by proper punctuation to legible English, reads as follows:—

Sacred to the memory of Katherine Gray,
Chang'd from a busy life to lifeless clay.
By earth and clay she got her pelf,
And now she's turned to earth herself.
Ye weeping friends, let me advise—
Abate your grief and dry your eyes."

Ledsham.

B. M.

AUGUST 18, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Aug. 18.—James Arderne, Dean of Chester, and re-Founder of the Chapter Library there, died	1691
" 19.—Mr. Inceledon performing at the Chester Theatre Royal	1817
" 20.—St. George's Chapel, Altrincham, consecrated by Bishop William Cleaver	1799
" 22.—Roger Grosvenor, esquire, son and heir of Sir Richard Grosvenor, bart., killed in a duel	1661
" 23.—Thomas Egerton, Viscount Brackley, Lord Chancellor of England, died	1599
" 24.—Joseph Crofton, the City Beadle, conducting a runaway apprentice to the Northgate Prison, Chester, pushed down the steps there, and killed.....	1806

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1266] LORD BYRON'S DEFEAT.

In the month of August, 1644, LORD BYRON, at that time commanding the Royalist forces in CHESTER, was, with the regiment under his own personal command,

aiding the King's service in LIVERPOOL, which was being seriously threatened by the enemy.

From the Letter we print to-day (kindly contributed by Dr. Kendrick, of Warrington), there would appear to have existed some tinge of jealousy, and consequent cross-purposes, between his Lordship and Sir Marmaduke Langdale: and one result of their divided councils, and that a serious one, was the disaster which befel the Cavaliers on Ormskirk Moor on Tuesday, the 20th of August. The King's cause in Lancashire was just then tottering to its fall, and LORD BYRON himself seems by his Letter to have shared the general depression. His Lordship had better, however, tell the story in his own language:—

"S'r. May it please y'r Highness.

I formerly gave you an accompt of S'R MARMADUKE LANGDALES comminge to ORMSKIRK, w'ch was by much neerer to LIVERPOOLE then I desire, or gave order for; my intention beeing onely that he should advance into Blakeburne hundred, thereby to draw the enemy farther from us, that in the mean time the garrison might bee better provided of things necessary. But S'R MARMADUKES design beeing onely to pass thorough the country & so to march southward, he made what hast he could, beeing joyned with the Lancashire horse, to ORMSKIRK, beeing in his way to HAILEFORD. Where the enemy made such hast after him that, as hee was marching out of one end of the Towne, they were at the other: it was my fortune to come to the heath on this side ORMSKIRK, neere the place where y'r Highness kild the bucks, just as the horse was drawinge out. S'R MARMADUKE had sent most of his owne horse before, & the retreat beeing to bee made by my L'd Molyneux his brigade, they (according to their accustomed manner), upon a volley of musket shott from the enemy, fell foule in such fury upon my regiment, that they utterly routed it; and the enemy's horse, takeinge advantage of the disorder, charged into the lane (thorough w'ch wee were to pass), tooke & killed some, & strooke such a terror into the rest that they could not bee stopped till they came to LIVERPOOL.

I thought of nothinge less than fighting that day, as havinge no intelligence of the enemyes beeinge so neere, & came onely from LIVERPOOLE upon a pacinge nagg, to advise with S'R MARMADUKE what was fitt to bee done; and whilst I indeavord to turne some of our horse in the lane to beate back that party of the enemyes w'ch pursued us, very hardly escaped beeing taken prisoner by them.

S'R MARMADUKE, nor none of his officers, would be persuaded, eyther to stay in Lancashire, or to returne to the North, and therefore that night marched to Haileford; and the next morninge passed over [into Cheshire] and are now upon their march towards Oxford, unless y'r Highness command them some other way: all the rest of the horse (excepting the remainder of my owne regiment) goes alonge with them. Thus not beeinge able to stay in Lancashire upon their removall, and their beeing

no possibility in these countreys to afford them quarter, S'r MICHAEL ERNELEY's regiment, w'ch I expected to have come along with S'r Marm: Langdale, is left in FURNESS: the fault is laid upon S'r Francis Makworthe, who would not suffer S'r Mar: to dispose of them, so that unless they make theire retreat to Carlisle I know not what will become of them.

Lankashire beeing thus destitute of all forces, but what is left in the garrisons, the enemye quarters neere LIVERPOOLS; & this night, 4 of the biggest of those shippes, w'ch were formerly there, are come into the harbor, so that now I believe they will make that Towne theire business. The souldiers are all very harty, & so longe as ammunition & victuall lasts, will not give it up I am sure; but unless the King's affairs bee so prosperous in the west that hee may send some forces this way, & that y'r Highness returne in convenient time, these countreys, with all the North of England, will bee undoubtedly lost.

At the request of Colonel Marlowe's [? Marrowes] brother, who is Lieutenant-Colonell to his foot regiment, I am bould to bee an humble suitor to y'r Highness, that you would be pleased to bestow that regiment on S'r Edmond Verney; who is a very acceptable man both to the gentlemen of the country who raised the regiment, & to all the souldiers, w'ch if y'r Highness bee pleased to condescend to, I shall humbly desire to know y'r pleasure by the next messenger you send this way.

As for that w'ch concernes my owne particular, in relation to the PRINCE OF WALES his service, wherein I was bould to implore y'r Highness favor & assistance, I can not think of any place of value about him, w'ch is undisposed of, unless it bee the Chamberlaines place; w'ch, I think, I may well pretend to, without any greate presumption, persons of as meane quality as myself havinge executed the same place to the kinge, when hee was prince. I humbly begge y'r Highness pardon for minglinge my owne private business with that w'ch concernes the publike, w'ch I should not doe, but that I am incouraged by y'r Highness former favors to

S'r,

Y'r Highness

most humble and most

obliged servant,

Chester, August 23rd,

JOHN BYRON.

1644."

Having given his Lordship's lugubrious account of the engagement, we will append a Roundhead short description of it, from *A True Relation of Two Great Victories*, London, 4to., 1644:—

"It is to be observed that the same day, and at the very same hour, that the Cheshire forces were engaged at TARVIN, the Lancashire forces had a great victorie over the enemye. Our Major Generall Meldrum having notice of the enemy, marched towards Ormskirk, made hast after them, overtook them on Tuesday [Augt. 20] in the evening on a moor near Ormskirk, when they stood in batalia:

upon the first charge of our Musquet, that were under the command of COL. BOOTH, they fled, whereupon our Horse bravely fell upon them, and totally routed them. In the pursuit they took about eight hundred horse—some letters report a thousand, and three hundred prisoners. By reason of the night we could not improve the victory as otherwise wee might have done. The LORD BYRON & the Lord Molleneux were forced to leave their horses, and to hide themselves in a corn-field."

EDITOR.

Notes.

[1267] CHESTER ELECTION PAPERS.

The character of our Chester Elections has been entirely changed since 1832, when the suffrage was so largely extended under Earl Grey's "Reform Act." Before that time it was the practice to publish in a separate form, not only the Lists of Voters, but the story of each contest, and also the papers published by or on behalf of the respective candidates. It would be well, I think, to preserve in THE SHEAF a list of this particular sort of Election literature, for the information of those who come after us; and by way of a beginning I send you the following:—

1. An Alphabetical List of all the Freemen who voted at the Election of 1747. Candidates, Sir Robert Grosvenor, Bart., Philip Henry Warburton, Esq. (son of Matthew Henry), and James Mainwaring, jun., Esq.

Chester: Printed by Eliz. Adams for John Page, Bookseller N.D.

2. Rider's Poll Book, or a Political Almanack, calculated for the Meridian of the City of Chester. Sheriff's Election. Candidates, Henry Rider, Junior, and Thomas Edwards.

Chester: Printed by Read and Huxley, by order of the well-wishers, for Messrs. Bulkeley, Poole and Cowley, Booksellers..... 1771

3. An Alphabetical List of the Freemen who polled at the General Election of 1784. Candidates, Thomas Grosvenor, Esq., Richard Willbraham Bootle, Esq., John Crewe, Esq., and Roger Barnston, Esq.

Chester: Printed and Sold by John Monk.. N.D.

4. Collection of Papers which have been published relative to the Electioneering Interests in the City of Chester.

Chester: Printed by J. Hemingway 1807

5. Compilation of all the Authorized and Anonymous Papers relating to the Election for City Officers in 1809, and the Parliamentary Representation of Chester.

Chester: Printed by J. Monk, Newgate-street. 1810

6. Report of the Trial, the King against Hassall, and others, for a riot during the Election of City Officers, in 1810 (the trial took place on the 11th of April, 1812).
Chester: Printed by John Monk..... N.D.
7. History of the Contested Election in Chester, 1812. Candidates, John Egerton, Esq. and E. V. Townshend, against General Grosvenor and Sir Richard Brooks.
Chester: Printed and Published by John Monk, ... N.D.
8. The Political History of the City of Chester, the Charter of King Henry VII., &c., with various papers issued at the Election of Mayor, Aldermen, &c., in the year 1813.
Chester: Printed and published by W. C. Jones 1814
9. History of the Contested Election in Chester, 1818. Candidates, Sir John Grey Egerton, Bart., John Williams, Esq., Thomas Grosvenor, Esq., and Lord Viscount Belgrave.
Chester: Printed at the *Courant* Office, by M. Monk N.D.
10. The Poll Book containing the Names of the Freemen who voted at the Election of Sheriff in 1818. Candidates, John Dodd, and George Wildig.
Chester: Printed at the *Courant* Office by M. Monk 1818
11. Poll Book of the Contested Election for Mayor and Sheriff in the year 1819. Candidates for Mayor, Mr Alderman Sellar, Mr. Alderman Evans, Mr Alderman Williamson, and Mr. Alderman Rogers; for Sheriff, Mr. Cross and Mr. Sefton.
Chester: Printed and Published by M. Galway 1819
12. A Report of the Proceedings and Evidence before a Committee of the House of Commons, on the Petition against the return of Lord Viscount Belgrave and General Grosvenor as Members of Parliament at the Election of 1818.
Chester: Printed and Published by J. Gorton, *Guardian* Office..... 1819
13. List of Voters, who polled for General Grosvenor, at the Chester Contested Election, 1820.
Chester: Printed at the *Courant* Office, by M. Monk N.D.
14. Report of the Proceedings of the Committee of the House of Commons on the Chester Election Petition (Election of 1820 I presume.)
Chester: Printed by M. Monk, *Courant* Office, Newgate-street N.D.
15. History of the Contested Election for Sheriff, 1824. Candidates, Thomas Whittakers and Robert Shearing.
Chester: Printed by T. Griffith, Bridge-street 1824
16. A Narrative of the Proceedings at the General Election of 1826. Candidates, Lord Belgrave, Hon. Robert Grosvenor, General C. B. Egerton, and Edward V. Townshend, Esq.
Chester: Printed and Published by M. Monk at the *Courant* Office..... N.D.

CHESTRIENSIS.

[1268] HOLYWELL HUNT IN 1770.

From among some old family memoranda, I have rescued the following scrap, which appears to be a cutting from the *Sporting Magazine* for the year 1823; and you may probably deem it worthy of being garnered permanently in THE SHEAF.

"Sir,

Seeing in the last number of your *Sporting Magazine* an account of the HOLYWELL HUNT as it is, I take the liberty of sending you the following statement of what it was fifty-three years ago next September; and where, though not a member of the meeting, I was then present, in my twenty-second year. I much doubt if there be one single member now alive of all those whom I then saw in the enjoyment of all earthly happiness, and most of them in the pride of youth.

The late EARL GROSVENOR, and the late Sir WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNN, were at this time the great supporters of this social meeting, where the utmost conviviality always prevailed. Many of the Horses were ridden by Gentlemen of the Hunt; and Mr. LECHE, Mr. MAURICE (afterwards Mr. CORREY), Mr. SLAUGHTER, Mr. JOHN PULESTON, and Mr. INCE were accounted very skilful riders.

There were also some races at light weights, in which Jockies were employed, the gentlemen not being able to come so light to the scale. There was a race in the year I have mentioned of a somewhat singular description, and which I have never seen since: it was at two mile heats, for *galloways not exceeding thirteen hands high, carrying twelve stone, rode by gentlemen*, and won by LD. BULKLEY's bay Mare, rode by Mr. LECHE. It afforded great diversion, as well as a hard contested race between five galloways that started for the prize, which was a subscription purse.

Mr. LECHE was a very great sportsman, and one of the first horsemen of the time, having rode one horse from YORK to his house near Chester (162 miles) in one day! He had also a good pack of Fox-hounds; and was esteemed a fine judge of all matters in the field and kennel. He was besides a true pattern of an English gentleman, liberal to his dependants, free from all affectation, and kind and hospitable to his friends and neighbours. In society he was much valued, as he abounded in mirth and good-humour, and was never given to alander.

I am,
As you may suppose,
A WORN-OUT SPORTSMAN."

1823.

MR. WILLIAM LECHE was grandfather of the present squire of CARDEN; and was, like his father before him, an ardent lover of fox-hunting and other Old English Sports.

Clifton.

E. A. L.

Queries.

[1269] ST. STEPHEN'S WELL, CHESHIRE.

Where is this well to be met with? I have recently been reading about Medicinal Springs, and find this Well incidentally referred to as one of ancient repute for its curative properties. Is it so accounted now?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[1270] THE HANDSOME MRS. FLOYD.

In Dean Swift's *Journal to Stella*, under date Oct. 9th, 1711, there occurs the following passage:—

"I went out at four, and called to see Biddy Floyd, which I had not done these three months: she is something marked, but has recovered her complexion quite, and looks very well."

And three days later there is the following:—

"There was the famous Mrs. Floyd of Chester, who, I think, is the handsomest woman (except M.D.) that ever I saw. She told me that twenty people had sent her the verses upon Biddy, as meant to her; and, indeed, in point of handsomeness, she deserves them much better."

Who and what was "the famous Mrs. Floyd, of Chester?" Surely she deserves a place in *THE CHESHIRE SHEAF*; and surely too, some, probably many, of your readers must be able to give information respecting her, which would enlighten other some, amongst them myself.

Mow Cop.

G. H.

[1271] A MODEL EPITAPH.

The *Gentleman's Magazine* of a century and a quarter ago, says of an Epitaph then existing in a North Cheshire graveyard, that

"It has all the requisites of a good one: it includes the name, rank, and qualification of the person, the principal events of his life, and the cause and manner of his death,—all in half-a-dozen lines!"

This Epitaph has probably long before to-day shared the fate usually accorded to such memorials, viz.: been improved off the face of the earth; but even if so, some Cheshire collector of such records may be able to tell me something of its history.

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

Replies.

[1272] CHESHIRE CHEESE.

[Nos. 70, 144.—June 31, July 10, 1878.]

Mr. B. WILBRAHAM JONES gives (in No. 144) a provincial song which with the music was published in

1746, during the Spanish War in the reign of George II. The first four verses of this song are certainly of an earlier date, as they were published in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for March, 1735.

Ledsham.

B.M.

[1273]

AGNES DE RIDLEY.

[No. 1074.—March 19.]

The simplest way to answer "J. H.'s" enquiries will perhaps be to quote, in the first instance, Mr. BOUTELL's description of the slab, as given in his *Christian Monuments in England and Wales*, 8vo., 1854. At page 143, accompanying his remarks with a very carefully executed woodcut, Mr. BOUTELL writes:—

"In the church of St. John in the city of Chester is another slab, which is partly flat, and covered with flowing foliage, executed in low relief; and a part is cut away in order to disclose to the view a sculptured semi-effigy. The upper portion of the stone, including the figure, that of a female, is much worn and injured; but the lower part is more perfect, the tracery and the border-legend within which it is contained being still sharp and distinct, with the exception of a few letters only of the legend. This inscription runs thus" + HIC: IACET: AGNES: VXOR: RIC'I: DE: RIDELEGH: QVE: OBIT: DIE: SABBATI: F'X'I: AN': S'M: PHI: &: IACOB': A.... CCX...."—Here lies Agnes, wife of Richard de Ridelegh, who died on the Sabbath-day next before the Feast of Philip and James the Apostles."

Thus far Mr. BOUTELL. But in 1864, when I first carefully examined this slab, I had the advantage of doing so in company with my old friend, Mr. H. BURNETT of Petworth, Surrey, the best and safest authority on Sepulchral Slabs I have ever known. We were then able to read the date on the monument very distinctly; excepting, I ought to add, the M for "one thousand," which, with the last letters of ANNO, came exactly where the fracture occurs which separates the stone in twain. The inscription, otherwise correctly given by Mr. BOUTELL and "J. H.," should end thus:—"A[NNO: M]CCC: XLVII." The true date of the death therefore was "the Sunday that came next before the 1st of May, 1347."

In a note written to me at the time, Mr. BURNETT says that this class of monument—

"appears to have arisen from the endeavour to combine a monumental effigy with a monumental cross upon the same coffin-lid or sepulchral slab. When adorned with colour and gold, AGNES DE RIDELEGH's semi-effigy must have been very beautiful: it was, as you know, the custom at and after that period (14th century) to paint such figures in their natural dresses and colours."

The first part of J. H.'s query I have left to the last, viz.:—"Who was she, and which family of the Riddleys did she belong to?" In the very year of her death, 1347, her husband, RICHARD DE RIDELEGH, was serving

the ancient office of Sheriff of Chester city; we may take it for granted therefore that his residence was somewhere in St. John's Parish. But though for many years I had been on the look out for him in the annals of the county, it was only very recently that I came upon his distinct trace, and that not in the Ridley pedigree, for reasons that will be at once obvious. In the 36th *Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records*, I find the following entry:—

"1363. Richard le Bruen of Chester [Mayor in 1349, &c.], has a grant made to him of all the lands and tenements which eacheated to the Prince of Wales, as Earl of Chester, on the death of RICHARD DE RYDELUGH, a bastard, without heirs."

It is clear therefore that he died intestate: and I take it from the fact that his property passed by royal grant to Richard le Bruen, that Agnes his wife, whose effigy is the subject of this notice, was a BRUEN of Wimbolds Trafford, and that Richard de Bruen was her brother, or at all events her next of kin.

T. HUGHES.

[1274] THE CHESTER ELECTION PETITION.

[Nos. 1236, 1256.—July 21, Aug. 4]

It has nothing to do with the Chester Petition, but one of the best jokes I have heard on the Judge's name was the suggestion at the time he, and one since deceased, were raised to the Bench, that the Benchers' Toast of "Wine and Women" should be changed to "Lush and Shee"!

A. B.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

[1275] THE COMEDIAN MUNDEN.

[No. 1242.—July 28th, 1890.]

MUNDEN, as an actor, was connected with the Chester Theatre for many years, performing with the company almost every season. He married at St. Oswald's, Chester, on the 20th of October, 1789, Frances Butler: in the Register of that Church she is described as "of St. Bridget's Parish," and Munden as "of this parish." His wife was an actress belonging to the same company; and on the occasion of a Mrs. Leister's benefit on October 28th, in that year, the "Fair Penitent," by Rowe, being the performance, the advertisement in the local papers ran—"Lavinia, Mrs. Munden (late Miss Butler)."

The following is also an extract from the Register of Holy Trinity Church, Chester:—

"James Munden, son of Joseph Shepherd Munden, Comedian, and Frances, born Sept. 4, buried Dec. 30, 1790."

His allusion at "The GWYNEDDIGION SOCIETY Meeting" to the passing of "youthful days in Chester" would no doubt refer to the above.

Ledsham.

B. M.

AUGUST 25, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- Aug. 25.—Royalist forces defeated on Oldcastle Heath, near Tarvin 1644
 „ 27.—The "Clarendon," West-Indiaman, of 800 tons burthen, launched at Mr. Cortney's Ship-yard, Chester..... 1813
 „ 28.—A man ran from the Eastgate to Christleton and back, and afterwards round the outside of the City Walls, Chester, nearly 7 miles, in 51 minutes 1786
 „ 29.—Jane, Lady Muncaster, daughter of Richard, second Marquis of Westminster, born..... 1834
 „ 31.—William Henry Hugh, third and present Marquis of Cholmondeley, born 1800
 J. H.

Original Documents.

[1276] THE DAVIESSES OF GWYSANEY.

I venture to send you copies of two interesting documents now in my possession, interesting not only to me, but to the good people of CHESTER, as forming episodes in the history of their Castle.

"County of
 Chestr."

These are to Certifie all whom it may Concernes that upon ye desire of SR WM. BERRINGTON, Barronett, I have given liberty unto Mr. MYTTON DAVIES, now Prison'r in CHESTR, to goe to WOODHEY, in ye said County, upon his p'oll for the space of one moneth next after the date hereof; and then to return and render him selfe Prison'r to mee againe at CHESTER, or sooner if hee bee required, and in the maine tyme not to Act any thinge pre-judicall to this Present, and the Comonwealth: Given und'r my hand at ye Castle of Chestr, the 28th day of January, 1659.

THOMAS CROXTON.

To all whom it may
 Concerne."

Mr. MYTTON DAVIES of GWYSANEY married the only daughter of Sir THOMAS WILBRAHAM of WOODHEY, co. Chester, Bart. Mr. Mytton Davies was buried at MOLD, 6th Nov., 1684.

Annexed is the Copy of an Order bearing the sign manual of the Protector, and addressed to the Parliamentary Governor of Chester Castle, COL. CROXTON:—

"OLIVER P.

Wee doe hereby Will and require you upon receipt hereof to sett at liberty ROBERT DAVIES,

Esq., now in your Custody, first taking fro' him sufficient security that hee shall render himselfe to you upon sum'ons, by Order fro' Us, or our Councell, att ten dayes Warning; for w'ch this shall bee your Warrant.

Given att Whitehall this 30th day of June, 1658.
To Colonel Croxon, Governor
of our City of Chester."

Robert Davies was born at Gwymaney 19 Feb., 1616, and, aged 15, was married at Gresford 20 July, 1631, to Anne, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Peter Mytton, Kt., of Llannerch Park, co. Denbigh.

The oak front door at Gwymaney, much battered by the siege in April, 1645, bears the date and their initials thus:—

D.
E. 1640. A.

Owston.

PHILIP B. DAVIES COOKE.

[1277] A DECEPTIVE WAGER.

Late in the reign of Queen Elizabeth there was trading in Chester, as a butcher, one WILLIAM HYNCKES, a country grazier and yeoman, but a resident and large leaseholder at HUNTINGTON, on the eastern borders of the city. He was a Freeman of Chester, and a member of the Corporation, but died before he reached the Shrievalty, for which he was at the time next on turn.

In the year 1606, WILLIAM HYNCKES, being evidently of a sporting as well as sportive turn, made a Wager with one of his fellow Councillors; which the latter no doubt thought, at the moment, to be in his own favour, but which the sequel proved to be otherwise. The incident is recorded in my MS. List of Mayors and Sheriffs, compiled early in the 17th century, and is recorded by the unknown author in the following terms:

"WILL^m HYNCKES, butcher, did Hide his horse about the walls of the Citye, before JO: TYRER could gether vp 60 littall stonnes, w'ch lay one yarde in sunder, to be taken vp one after and other, and put into A baakett where the first stonne lay, w'ch wager or bett Will^m Hynoks wonne."

MR. HYNCKES on his fleet horse made the circuit of the City Walls, I doubt not, by Cowlane, Gorsastacks, Dee Lane, the Whitesands adjoining the Water Tower, along under the Crofts and the Walls, by the eastern margin of the Great and Little Roodeye, up Skinners' Lane, past the Bridge Gate to below the Washing Steps; and so up Souters' Lane and St. John's Lane to the Eastgate. Poor TYRER the while had been labouring away at his apparently easy task, which grew however at every stage; and it proved indeed so thorough a "tireser," that he was still at his wearisome two miles' job with his "60 littall stonnes," when the craftier Hynokes returned to claim his fairly won wager.

This WILLIAM HYNCKES had many children, all Chester born, and was founder of the family of Hyncks of Huntington by Chester, and of Breckenbrough, co. York.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1278] THE MARQUIS OF CHOLMONDELEY.

I was amused at meeting with the following paragraph the other day in the *Chester Courant* for September 10, 1810, and fancy that, should it catch the eye of the present venerable peer, it isn't unlikely to amuse His Lordship also:—

"There was much jollity at Cholmondeley Castle in this county on Saturday week, which was the Birthday of Master HENRY CHOLMONDELEY. The surrounding peasantry were regaled with English roast beef, with an ample supply of good old ale. Afterwards ten maidens were selected to run for a chemise made of the best Holland, containing ten yards of cloth, being the number of years the young Gentleman has attained. After this prize was decided, a donkey race followed."

On Tuesday next, the 31st inst., all going well meanwhile, His Lordship will have completed his eightieth year; and I trust it may not be deemed an intrusion if I offer him, through the columns of *THE SHEAF*, "many happy returns of the day!"

L. L.

[1279] TWO NORTH CHESHIRE SCHOLARS.

Forty-five years ago there were two young men, both natives of Cheshire, residing at Oxford, as undergraduates, who have since made their mark in the world as dignitaries of the Church. The *Macclesfield Courier* for Dec. 23, 1837, records their position in the final schools as follows:—

"UNIVERSITY HONOURS.—In the Classical List of the University of Oxford for Michaelmas term, we have the pleasure to see, in the First Class, the names of John Charles Ryle, son of John Ryle, Esq., our townaman; and of Arthur Fearhyn Stanley, son of the Lord Bishop of Norwich, who is so intimately connected with this town and neighbourhood."

When linking together in that short paragraph the names of those two young scholars and contemporaries, the Editor of the *Macclesfield Courier* can scarcely have even dreamt of the illustrious career in store for them—the one as the first Bishop of Liverpool, and the other as Dean of Westminster and custodian of its grand old Abbey, a position little, if at all, inferior to the proudest English Bishopric.

G. T.

Queries.

[1280] THE PRETENDER AT MARBURY.

Is there any evidence to be met with in support of the tradition that PRINCE CHARLES EDWARD, when on his march from Manchester to Derby, privately visited LORD BARNYMORE at Marbury Hall? HAN-

SHALL, in his *History of Cheshire*, states "it is pretty certain that the Pretender had been on a visit to Marbury:" but the only ground upon which he arrives at the conclusion is, that "on the death of his Lordship's second son, the Hon. Richard Barry, the cup out of which 'the Stuart' had drunk, although intrinsically not worth threepence, was engraved and ornamented and sold for £26."

The late Mr. GREEN, in his interesting book on *Knutsford*, can say nothing more upon this matter than HANSHALL had done: but the late SIR HARRY MAINWARING told me in 1862 that he had seen a written document, wherein it was stated in terms that the PRETENDER had been at MARBURY, at or about the time mentioned at the enquiry instituted by the Privy Council. I want the fact—if fact it be—better authenticated for historical purposes; and if any reader of THE SHEAF can throw further light upon it, I shall be much obliged.

NORBURY.

[1281] CHESTER COFFEE TAVERNS.

I question if there be, in any city or town in England, two more picturesque examples of a now popular and philanthropic movement, than the two Coffee Houses recently established under such flattering auspices at CHESTER. They were both of them formerly well-known hostleries, and good specimens of the old-fashioned wood and plaster gabled structures, for which the county of Chester has always been celebrated. The "Little Nag's Head,"—the one first converted to temperance principles,—was entrusted by the Duke of Westminster, its owner, to the restoring hand of Mr. John Douglas, of Chester, who has reproduced a really beautiful façade, deservedly admired by all who pretend to the smallest architectural taste. The second Coffee Tavern, formerly the "Falcon Inn," is in Lower Bridge Street; and, beyond a few internal alterations to adapt it to its present purpose, remains in almost its original state,—a picturesque feature of a picturesque locality.

And now for my Query. When and where was the first Coffee Tavern set up at Chester,—prior, I mean, to those modest efforts quietly put forth when the Temperance Movement took first public root in England, say half a century ago?

A WOODMAN.

[1282] AN IMPRISONED PRIOR.

"When found, make a note of it,"—was the advice of Captain Cuttle, and is the motto of your antiquarian confreres—"Notes and Queries." Had I done this, your readers need not have been troubled with the following enquiry, for the answer to which I must now trust to them and to your indulgent help.

I recently read a short paragraph describing the imprisonment at Chester for some civil offence, of the prior or master of one of the religious fraternities of the city or county; but now that I want again to refer

to it, I cannot recall the authority whence I gleaned the fact. Will one or other of your contributors try to help me out?

CAMBRO-BRITON.

[1283] SHATTELEGH, CO. CHESTER.

Is there any hamlet or estate on the west side of Cheshire bearing the name of SHATTELEGH? To whom, if so, does such property belong, and can its precise locality be pointed out? I imagine it must be now merged in some larger estate, as I fail to find it on any map I have consulted, ancient or modern.

A WOODMAN.

[1284] CHESTER ELECTORAL AFFAIRS.

It is stated in THE SHEAF'S Weekly Diary, under date June 9th, 1880, that LORD BELGRAVE (afterwards first Marquis of Westminster) was elected M.P. for CHESTER in room of Mr. WILBRAHAM BOOTLE resigned, on the 18th of June, 1790. Mr. RALPH EDDOWES, who, as is known, had been litigating the question as to how far the Chester Corporation were entitled by law to do certain things without the consent of the citizens at large, had written a letter to Mr. Recorder Bower, dated the 29th of May, 1790, expressing his intention to withdraw from all further struggle in the matter; and I should like to know if that particular letter had anything to do—when read between the lines—with the change in the representation of the city within a fortnight from that time. LORD BELGRAVE continued to sit in Parliament for Chester from 1790 to the year 1802; when upon the death of his father he became a peer, and Mr. DRAX GROSVENOR succeeded to the vacated seat, and continued to hold it until the year 1807, when, upon the dissolution in that year, he announced his intention of not standing again.

It was at that juncture Mr. EGERTON, of Oulton, first became a candidate for the City; and in strictness it was then, the respective parties of "GROSVENORS" and "EGERTONS" took up the character which, for so many years, divided the electors of CHESTER into two distinct local (though not party) lines. I admit that so early as 1784 when Mr. CREWE, of Bolesworth, and Mr. BARNSTON, stood against Mr. THOMAS GROSVENOR and Mr. WILBRAHAM BOOTLE, a sort of anti-Grosvenor feeling had been growing up among the Freeman. But it appears to me that at that time even it was more political than local, GROSVENOR and BOOTLE being ardent supporters of Mr. PITT; CREWE and BARNSTON being equally ardent supporters of Mr. FOX. But then the Corporation (as such) favoured the former gentlemen; and as I read the EDDOWES story, his feeling originated in political sentiment *in fact*, although it assumed for the purposes of legal argument the character of a municipal contest. One thing is certain, that from 1784 when Mr. CREWE was rejected, down to 1790 when Mr. BOOTLE retired, the war between the

Corporation and the Citizens was bitter in the extreme, the GROSVENORS were on one side, and BARNSTON and EDDOWES on the other; but that between the dates of the election of LORD BELGRAVE to 1807, and when Mr. EGERTON first stood for CHESTER, "no attempt was made"—according to *Hemingway*—"to oppose either the Corporation in the election of City officers, or the house of Eaton in the return of members." I am fairly entitled therefore to enquire, if the retirement of Mr. EDDOWES from the further prosecution of his suit, and of Mr. BOOTLE from the representation of the City, had anything in common *secretly*, but of which we have so far had no knowledge?

This being a historical question, can have no party influence at the present moment; and I have no hesitation therefore in asking some of your correspondents who can do so to give us the benefit of their help in solving it, for the sake of those who in after years may be perplexed by the same doubts, which have found a place in my own mind.

CHESTERENSIS.

Replies.

[1285] EPITAPH AT INCE.

[Nos. 821, 848, 854, 873, 892.—Sept. 17, Oct. 1, 8, 22, Nov. 5.]

Mr. Earwaker quotes, in No. 873 of *THE SHEAF*, a similar epitaph to the one at INCE, from the *New Universal Magazine* for November, 1748; and from the same Magazine for November, 1751, headed "Epitaph on a Blacksmith." In the *Gentleman's Magazine* for July, 1784, the latter is printed word for word; the only difference being the title, which is there given as "By an Ingenious Blacksmith for his own Epitaph."

Ledham.

R. M.

[1286] RUSHBEARING.

BUNBURY WAKES IN 1755.

[Nos. 246, 278, 382, 552, 1263.—Sept. 4, 25, Nov. 20, 1878, March 5, 1879, Aug. 11, 1880.]

From the *Tarporley Parish Magazine* I send you the following cutting, illustrative of the once popular custom of RUSHBEARING in Cheshire. I copied it from "Cole's MSS." in the British Museum, and think it may fairly be deemed worthy of insertion in *THE SHEAF*. It is dated

"July 30, 1755.

Being at my worthy Friend the Rev. Mr. Allen's House at Tarporley, and hearing that there was a famous Rushbearing, as the Cheshire people call it [to be held at BUNBURY], on account of the hanging-up of a new Chandelier of Brass in the

Church, which cost the Parish about Thirty Pounds, we took a ride there in the evening to see the ceremony.

This Parish is a very large one, and has about a dozen Townships depending on it, which all sent at different times Garlands and large kind of Fans adorned with gilt paper cut into various figures and mixed with Flowers. These were borne by separate persons, each having one in his hand, and coming in procession from their different Townships at intervals; and many of the neighbouring Villages also sending them Garlands, all which were set up in different parts of the Church, made it look very ornamental, and gave the whole Village an air of gaiety and cheerfulness not usual in the more Southerly parts of the Kingdom.

On the Dedication Day of their Churches in the North, it is usual to strew them with Rushes, and otherwise adorn them: but it had not been practised at BUNBURY within the memory of man. But having new roofed their Church about Two years before, and very handsomely coiled it, and buying the aforesaid brass Branch, they were desirous of solemnizing the memory of it; and the day following was to be ushered in with Ringing of Bells, and Two Sermons, and great Psalm-singing, and other Festivities. St. Boniface* is the Patron Saint of the Church, on which day their Wake is held.

The Church is very large and has a tolerable good Tower: it was formerly Collegiate, and made so by Sir Hugh Calveley, Knt., about 1386, who lies buried in the midst of the noble and spacious Choir under a curious Altar-tomb, on which is his Portrait-ure in armour. And because he has the appearance of a large person, the country people have a common and seriously believed opinion that he eat regularly every day a calf and a sheep.

The S.E. corner by the Altar is disgraced by the hideous statue painted of a woman in the dress of the present time, wretchedly carved; it was designed, I think, for the wife of one Johnson, an Apothecary, of Namptwich, but deserves not a place in so solemn a part of the Church. What other monuments of antiquity lie scattered in any parts of the Church I can say nothing or little of, it being so crowded that there was hardly any standing in it anywhere."

* BUNBURY was spelt till quite recently *Bonebury*, an evident corruption of Boni(face) borough.

Tarporley.

J. H. C.

[1287] THE CHURCH OF ST. CHAD.

[Nos. 1205, 1228.—June 30, July 14.]

Your correspondent "H." will find in Vol. I., p. 354, ORMEROD (2d. ed.) as much about this church, or rather *chapel* (of which there were several very similar), as is known at the present time. A note of Mr. Ormerod shows that it existed as a ruin in 1662. X.

[1288] PIGOT, THE CHESTER HISTORIAN.

[No. 1218.—July 7.]

I can add a little information about the *History of Chester*, incorrectly ascribed to Mr. Cuitt. In the

"Medical Directory for 1869" I find the following recorded:—

"PIGOT, JOHN M.B., Ruddington, Nottingham, (retired) M.D. Edin., 1807: formerly Senior Hon. Physician Gen. Infirmary for City and County of Chester. Author of '*The History of the City of Chester*.'"

From the book of the Infirmary I find that Dr. PIGOT was appointed Physician in 1807, I believe in succession to Dr. Cumming, who resigned about that time and went to reside in Denbigh. Dr. PIGOT appears from his preface to have undertaken the compilation of his local History, not for any personal advantage but at the request of a publisher; whom I take to be Mr. Poole, who was the principal bookseller in the city in 1815, and had published, I believe, the county History some 30 years before. I presume that Broster's short Guide Book to Chester was becoming scarce, and that there was a want for such a local guide to accompany the beautiful etchings of Mr. Cuitt about that time being produced. Dr. Pigot's name was somewhat singular: it was John Margaret Becker Pigot. He lived in Nicholas street, Chester, near the late Dr. Thackeray's residence. Dr. Pigot left Chester about 1830, and returned to his native place; but his son came rather later to Chester to practice as a surgeon, and was well-known to many of the younger residents of this city up to about 10 years since, when he too left.

Newton.

T. D.-C.

[1289] BRIAN WALTON, BISHOP OF CHESTER.

[No. 1261.—Aug. 11, 1860.

This dignitary died 29th Nov., 1661, at his house in Aldersgate-street. Being a prebendary of St. Paul's, on the 5th Dec. following, he was buried in the south aisle of that Cathedral church. cf. Todd's *Memoirs of Bishop Walton*, i., 158; Lloyd's (David) *Memoirs*, 1668, fol. 514-15, where the Epitaph is given; *Biog. Brit.*, vi., 4147; Bishop Kennett's *Register and Chronicle*, fol. 569; and specially Wood's *Festii*, by Bliss, ii., 84.

Buckland Brewer, Bideford. J. INGLE DREDGH.

SEPTEMBER 1, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- Sept. 1.—Carrington Church, in Bowdon, dedicated to St. George, consecrated by John, Bishop of Bangor, as Proxy for Bishop Keene 1750
 „ 2.—Thomas Savage, of Clifton, near Buncoorn, Archbishop of York, died at Cawood 1507
 „ 3.—Coat Armorial restored to Chester by the College of Arms 1580

- Sept. 4.—Thomas Falconer, Editor of *Strabo*, and son of the Recorder of Chester, died at Chester..... 1798
 „ 5.—Tarvin seized, and garrisoned for the Parliament 1644
 „ 6.—Grand Festival of Music commenced at Chester Cathedral, and continued for three following days..... 1790
 „ 7.—Bishop Blomfield's Farewell Sermon preached in Chester Cathedral..... 1828
 J. H.

Original Documents.

[1290] FRANCIS SANDFORD'S WIDOW.

Delving once more into the parcel of Original Papers relating to his Family, confided to us for publication by THOMAS HUGH SANDFORD, Esq., of Sandford, we select two interesting Letters written from Dublin in 1671, to ROBERT SANDFORD, eldest son and representative of the eminent loyalist, Captain FRANCIS SANDFORD, to whose services to King Charles we have several times already borne witness in THE SHEAF.

The principal object of these Letters was to acquaint the then head of that Family with the death, at Dublin, of his Mother, Mrs. ELIZABETH SANDFORD, a daughter of Caldecot Chambre, Esq., of Carnow Castle, co. Wicklow; and to make known her deathbed wishes as to the disposal of her personal estate.

The first Letter is from MARY, COUNTESS OF MEATH, sister of the deceased lady, and runs as follows:—

"Nouem: ye 7th, 1671.

Cosen Sandford,—

I am concerned in ye welfair of yo'r Family, & therefore desire to know y't you are all wel, & in a happy condistion, & now am also to acquaint you with our affairs here; ye 31th of october, in ye enening, it pleased God to take to him selfe my sister (yo'r Mother); all her children y't are in this Country was with her. she was very weake euer since my cosen y'r daughter left her, but had her understanding & memory to ye Last, til within few houres before she dyed.

a bout a weake before, my Cosen RICHARD SANDFORD & my Cosen MACE being with her, I desired to know of her whether she had declared her mind concerning her children, y't ther might be no mistakes after her decease, y't might be a disquiet in her famely. she was weake, & I was loth to pree her to speake much, but I asked her whether it was her will y't Her son RICHARD & her daughter ELIZABETH should haue what was hers in England, and in yo'r Hands, & she sayd (I); I desired her, if y't was her wil y't she sayd before, y't she would hould up her hand:—this she expressed twice when I spake to her ye former words, or to ye same effect. My Cosen RICHARD SANDFORD and my Cosen MACE being by,

& heard her say (I) [aye] both times; & 2 servaunt Mayds y't was cald in to ye Boome heard her speak once & hould up her hand to declare her wil as before writen.

I thought it my part to declare thus much to you, & also to desire you to let yo'r Sister Mace know what is there in yo'r Hands & y'r tenants, y't was due to my sister before & att Mich'as Last; & y't you will keepe ye Half of all dues for her, til she may recesse it here; & since it hath pleased God to leane her a widdow w't 3 smal children, y't you will give her som helpe now you haue an additional estate: it hath bin a disaduantag for her to leane her habitation to come to attend her Mother. she knew it was her duty to attend her Mother, but it hath bin her Los euery way to unsettle her selfe & Loose her dear Mother, but I hope al wil be made up to her by yo'r kindnes & Gods blessing. to his guidance I comit you, & remaine

Yo'r affectionat Ante & frend

MA: MEATH.

For Robert Sandford, Esqu'r, at his hous att Sandford in Shropshire.
Leane these w'th ye Post M'r att NANTWICH, to be sent as aboue with care & speede."

The second Letter is from the deceased lady's fourth and youngest son, RICHARD SANDFORD, confirming the intelligence sent on by his aunt, Lady MEATH:—

"Deare brother,

After a very tedious viage, in conolusion wee were wind dryen to Knockvergos in the North of Ireland, 200 miles from Dublin, where I arrived the eight of octob'; and at my cominge to towne found our good mother very sicke and weeke, and so continued vntill the last day of the same: and then it pleased god to put a period to her dayes, and take her to himselfe, leauinge what Money was due to her betwene my sister Mace and my selfe; and haneing occasion to take vp money to defray her funerall charge, I haue giuen a bill of 60*l*. to Mr. William Brokings, to be payd Mr. John Salmon in Chester vpon sight.

I pray you faile not to be punctuall in the payment of it, in case I be not time enough to doe it my selfe: noe more, but my due respects to all relations and friends, I rest

Yo'r truly loving brother,

RICHARD SANDFORD.

Dublin, Novemb'
ye 7th, 1671.

For, Robert Sandford of Sandford, Esq'r,
nere to Whitechurch, in
Shropshire, England."

The "Mr. John Salmon in Chester" named in this last Letter, after trading for some time in one of the suburbs of London, came down and settled in Chester as a haberdasher, and issued a curious Penny Token there in the year 1667.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[1291] OWEN GLYNDWR'S REVOLT.

(Continued from No. 1258.)

Resuming the thread of this stirring local story where we last left it, we find the PRINCE OF WALES, after once seeing his land forces placed in fighting trim, growing anxious now as to the safety of the seaboard. Perhaps, prudent soldier as he was, he wished to have command of the water in case of any serious reverse: possibly he had found GLYNDWR obtaining food and arms for his followers through one or other of the neighbouring Welsh ports: certain it is that HENRY himself was dependent largely, for stores and materiel, on the freedom of his communications with Ireland.

Whichever of these thoughts it was that actuated him, we see from the accompanying record that a little local navy was being hastily improvised at CHESTER for the Cheshire and Welsh coasts. HENRY HOTSPUR, then still loyal, and in command of DENBIGH CASTLE, engages two prominent Knights of WIREAL, whom he names, to serve with their retainers on board the ships awaiting them in the DEE:—

"1402, May 23. Indenture between HENRY DE PERCY, Knight, Lieutenant and Justice of North Wales, and JOHN DE PULL (Poole) and WILLIAM DE STANLEY, Knights: the said John and William to serve the said Henry "sur le meer" with 24 lances and 48 archers for 14 days after their muster, to be made at CHESTER on the 6th day of May following the date of this Indenture; each of the said Knights to receive 2*l*. a day, each lance 12*d*., and each archer 6*d*.; half the amount for the whole time to be paid in hand, and the other half on the day of muster; the master mariners to receive the same as when taken for the King's service, to pay their third of the gains of the war to the said Henry, and to deliver to him any person 'on chief-teyn riall,' taken by them during the war, and to be rewarded for the same. Memorandum of the payment of the said wages. [2 & 3 Hen. IV., m. 7 d (50).]"

Six weeks after this, we find two approved master mariners of WIREAL nominated to high-sounding commands in the little fleet collected in the DEE. The citizens of Chester had during that short interval been manning and equipping their small craft; the which being now ready to sail, we read as follows:—

"1402. July 7. Appointment of JOHN DE MOLYNTON and THOMAS DE CAPENHURST by Henry Prince of Wales, as governors and chief admirals of the barge called the 'Trinity' of Chester, and of other three small vessels, fully armed, in which the Mayor and Sheriffs of Chester were about to put to sea in the service as well of the King as of the Prince. [2 & 3 Hen. IV. m. 8 d. (4).]"

It would be difficult to imagine our present Mayor and Sheriff putting out to sea as soldiers in the actual service of the Queen their mistress, almost in the very presence of the enemy! But here we see the Chief Magistrate taking his proper place as "Admiral of the Dee" with his two portly Sheriffs, to join the armed force organised for the protection of the estuary of their Chester river against blockade or attack, and for the capture of any rebel chieftains who might seek to fly away by sea.

Money was no doubt a difficulty with the insurgents under GLYNDWR, and it seems to have been a commodity not too plentiful even in the coffers of PRINCE HENRY. Thus we find that, from another writ dated—

"11th July, 1402, RICHARD DE BYCHORE and ADAM SON OF MADOC AP ITHEL, were appointed collectors of a subsidy of twenty marks granted to the PRINCE by the Burgesses of Flint, [2 and 3 HENRY IV., m. 9 (24).]"

This is only quoted as an example; every other district was called upon to supply its proportion of the subsidy laid upon it by the Crown to meet the exigencies of the rebellion. Months roll by, and the fortunes of war ebb and flow; and there being whispers of defection in the royal counsels, and of treason elsewhere, we find amongst the rolls as follows:—

"1402, Nov. 6. Writ to the Mayor and Sheriffs of Chester, to array for the defence of the city every man whose lands, tenements, or rents should amount to £20 yearly, or who should have goods, merchandise, or chattels of the value of 100 marks, and to distrain the lands and goods of the recusants."

Allusion has previously been made to the straits our WREXHAM friends were put to during this revolt through the failure of the commissariat in that leading article of Beer. It does not seem, either, that at that early date the town had acquired any celebrity for brewing; as the inhabitants manifestly depended on CHESTER for their wholesale supply. The love however of the Wrexhamers for this peculiar condiment is not a matter of doubt to any student of these national records: no town is so frequently named in connection with the article, or shews itself more nervous lest the supply of the favourite liquor should suddenly and absolutely fail. The document now to be given is evidence as to this fact:—

"1402-3 Feb. 3. WILLIAM DE HAWARDYN, of Chester, clerk, becomes surety that John Martyn traunter, Griffith ap Madoc Bobyth, Eign' ap David ap Ievan, Halkyn ap Madoc de Wryxham, Iollyn ap Madoc ap Jor', Ievan ap Grono de Wryxham, traunter, and Edden ap Gresford, sell not the beer carried by them from the city of Chester to the rebels."

Before the supply under this bond had been delivered, it was apparently discovered by the authorities that the provisions obtained from our old city did, somehow or other, get surreptitiously shared with the insurgents. The licence granted as above to the Wrexham people was therefore

subsequently cancelled, on an Order in Council, forbidding any provisions to be delivered out of the city of CHESTER for parts towards Wales."

A closer quarantine was about this time ordered, and a commission was appointed,—

"March 13, 1402-3, to appoint night and day Watches at Trymley, Havoitwith, Bryn Ithell, & Hykokesburgge, so that Owen Glyndwr and his followers, who were lying near to the Lordship of Hopedale might not make a sudden invasion of that Lordship. [3 & 4 Hen. IV., m. 4 (4).]"

It will be seen by the next quotation that these precautions were not taken in sufficient time, or in sufficient force, for within three months the mischief dreaded had been done. Thereupon an exception, as to the supply of victuals, was made in favour of Hope and Hopedale in the following terms:—

"1403, May 21. Licence by HENRY, Prince of Wales, to JOHN DE TRAFFORD, Vicar of Eston, in Hopedale, William and Ievan ap Meredith ap Gruff, Llewelyn ap David ap Madoc, for each to buy weekly at CHESTER, four loads of Bread and Beer, because the town of QUEEN HOPE, "hostiliter crematur" by the Welsh rebels; and they of the Lordship who kept watch there for the safety of the country could not be provisioned other than from the city of Chester. [3 and 4 Hen. IV., m. 6, d. (11).]"

PENNAANT has no record, nor has Powell, of the "hostile burning" of HOPE town during this insurrection: in this, therefore, we have another proof, out of many, of the historic value of these now always accessible Cheshire and Welsh Records.

Curson Park.

HENRY TAYLOR.

[1292] THE CHESHIRE WILBRAHAMS.

There are a considerable number of references in printed books to individual members of this family; but far more exist, I have reason to know, in some of the stores of Cheshire MS. which lie hidden among the treasures of our county libraries. Mr. Timbs, in his amusing and instructive volume on "Clubs and Club Life," makes reference to two "Rogers" of the race; and if any one well qualified to do so would but take up the story of the family history, between the two, a very readable book might be made of it.

"The Priory Gate, Clerkenwell," says Mr. Timbs, "was granted in 1604 to Sir Roger Wilbraham for life." He probably was the celebrated lawyer, who became Master of the Court of Requests, and afterwards Solicitor-General for Ireland. One of his daughters married Sir Thomas Wilbraham; and according to some accounts, there came, some generations later, another Roger, who is thus alluded to by Mr. Timbs:—

"One evening, Roger Wilbraham came up to a whist-table at Brooke's, where Sir Philip [Francis], who for the first time wore the Ribbon of the Order (of the Bath), was engaged, and thus accosted him. Laying hold of the ribbon, and examining it for

some time, he said: 'So this is the way they have rewarded you at last; they have given you a little bit of red ribbon for your services, Sir Philip, have they? A pretty bit of red ribbon to hang about your neck, and that satisfies you, does it? What do you think they will give me, Sir Philip?' The new knight, angered that his honours should be so slightly valued, exclaimed in reply, 'A halter, and be d—d to you!'"

The answer was not likely to annoy Roger Wilbraham, who I imagine was none other than the author of "Words used in Cheshire," and who sat for some years in Parliament, as member for Helston and Bodmin. His untitled name was sufficiently famous without the aid of any "red ribbon:" and although I do not pretend to say that Philip Francis was not equally so, the Wilbrahams have a history of their own which no title could do honour to; and, with us Cheshire men, a fame that will always abide adorned for its own intrinsic worth. How this history is to be made plain to all who run, I have already suggested: but I must add that, since the death of Elizabeth, history itself is best written in the lives of men who helped to make it for us; and thus the compilers of family history often become benefactors to society, although they can know but little of their own knowledge of the story they may be engaged upon.

J. F. W.

[1293] A DUEL AT BACKFORD.

In the days, now fortunately historic, when the demands of injured honour could only be assuaged by the intervention of either an inch of steel or a bullet of lead, hostile meetings were not infrequent among the aristocracy, whether of Cheshire or elsewhere. I copy the following scrap from the *Chester Courant* of January 30, 1838:—

"AFFAIR OF HONOUR.—A meeting took place at BACKFORD, near this city, on Wednesday last, in consequence of political misunderstanding, between Mr. WILLIAM BROWNE, M.P. for Mayo, and Mr. JAMES A. BROWNE, of Browne Hall, in the same county—the former attended by Mr. Somers, M.P. for Sligo, the latter by Mr. Fitzmaurice, of Lagaturn, in the county of Mayo. On the second exchange of shots, Mr. Jas. A. Browne's ball passing through his antagonist's thigh, the matter was amicably arranged. We are happy to say that the wound is not dangerous, although it may confine Mr. Browne for some time.

"We understand," adds the *Chester Chronicle*, "that the CHESTER police were apprised from an unknown quarter of the intended meeting, and were on the look out. Their laudable anxiety to prevent bloodshed produced rather a ludicrous result, as on the previous evening they arrested two very respectable looking gents; who, however, instead of being on such a deadly mission as the *duello*, were the messengers of peace,—*alias* clergymen! Of course when the mistake was discovered they were liberated."

I find no further trace of the wounded combatant, but we may hope that he recovered from the scratch, and became a wiser and less irritable man after his experience under fire at BACKFORD. His antagonist I find married two years afterwards, and it is to be hoped parted with his unfortunate pistols at or about that happy date.

T. HUGHES.

Queries.

[1294] CHESHIRE TOKENS.

There is much good history to be made out of the common Tradesmen's Tokens of former days; and it would be both useful and interesting if some of your correspondents addressed their attention to this chapter in Cheshire's commercial history. MR. GERRIN in his account of *Knutsford* tells us that:—

"James Swinton in *Knutsford*" [had] "His halfpenny 1687."

"Thomas Cotton of Middlewich, His Halfpenny" [and on the reverse side]. "altho' but brass, yet let me pass, 1669."

"Philip Antrobus" [reverse] "*Knutsford* 1671. A halfpenny token."

How many of these passing coins can be traced, and their history recorded, is the fitting work for the zealous and painstaking antiquary; and it would be well to find out if possible where they were coined, and also where those that remain of them can be seen and handled? For, insignificant as they may be in intrinsic value, they are most valuable, as so many landmarks (so to speak) to guide us in trade researches all over the country.

A. MARTINDALE.

Replies.

[1295] AGNES DE RIDLEY.

[Nos. 1074, 1273.—March 19, Aug. 18.]

It is worth recording in THE SHEAF—as a fitting pendant to Mr. HUGHES' notice of the above-named lady and her tombstone in St. John's, Chester—that there is at CILCAIN, Flintshire, a slab which curiously illustrates, though not so artistically, the semi-effigy at Chester. The figure is that of a man, with his hands joined on his breast as if in prayer, exactly as are *Agnes de Ridley's* in your local example at St. John's,—the inscription round the lower half reading "—HIC: IACET: MARRIED T. IERWERTH.—Here lies Meredith the son of Ierwerth." The coincidence of names and dates, with the manifest social status of the parties, induces me to connect this notable from CILCAIN with the Meredith ap Iorwerth, whose son Deyous ap Meredith ap Iorwerth, on the 14th August, 1408, joined in a recognizance for £10, part of a fine of £20, laid by the Prince of

Wales upon Conan ap Ithel ap Kenrick for rebellion and other misdemeanours."—[*Welsh Records*.]

CAMBRO BRITON.

[1269]

A MODEL EPITAPH.

[No. 1271.—August 18.]

The epitaph you refer to, as from the *Gentleman's Magazine*, may still be seen on a gravestone at the east end of the churchyard, PRESTBURY. The following is the correct reading :—

"Here
Resteth the Body of
Edward Green, late
of Adlington, who Departed
this life Feby. ye 27th, 1750,
Aged 28 yrs.

Beneath this Stone lyes Edw'd Green,
Who for cutting Stone famous was seen,
But he was sent to apprehend
One Joseph Clark at Kerridge End
For stealing Deer of Esquire Downs,
Where he was shott & dy'd o' th' wounds."

The entry in the register is—

"1750, Macclesfield, Edward Green, Bricklayer
February 28."

Clarke was a noted freebooter, and a terror to the neighbourhood. There is a tradition current that, when the Jacobite army with Charles Edward went marching through Macclesfield in 1745, one of the soldiers entered a shop adjoining the Angel Inn and attempted to possess himself of some articles of clothing; when Clarke, then a well-known highwayman, witnessing the act, seized the man's dirk and slew him on the spot. Clarke made his escape through the inn yard, and, as he could not be found, the landlord was carried away as a hostage. He was a notorious deer-stealer, and the inscription on Edward Green's gravestone records one of his many offences.

The deer-park at Shrigley was within the original limits of the royal forest of Macclesfield, in which the Downes family held the hereditary sub-forestership of Downes and Worth. They also claimed the privilege of holding the King's stirrup when he came a hunting in the Forest, as well as of rousing the stag for his amusement.

There is another inscription, near to the one just referred to, that is deserving of notice. It reads :—

"Here lyeth the body of JAMES PICKFORD, of Mottrom, who departed this Life the first day of January, Anno Domini 1691.

Alsoe SARAH PICKFORD, sister of the abovesaid James Pickford, was here Interred August ye 17, Anno Dom. 1705, And died a Bachelour in the 48 yeare of her age."

The word "bachelour" instead of "spinster" is occasionally, though rarely, met with in the writings of English authors. It is in one or two instances so used by "rare" Ben Jonson.

Upton Hall, Prestbury.

JAMES CROSTON.

SEPTEMBER 8, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Sept. 8.—Coronation of William IV. and Queen Adelaide celebrated at Chester with great festivity	1831
" 9.—James, Duke of Monmouth, with 100 horse, came to Chester	1683
" 10.—Faculty granted by Bishop Sparke to the Rev. Sir Thomas Broughton, bart., to take down and rebuild Haslington Chapel in Barthomley at his own expense	1810
" 11.—Sir Philip Tatton Mainwaring, bart., of Over Peover, born.....	1838
" 12.—The Duke of Monmouth left Chester, and proceeded with his retinue to Rook Savage	1683
" 13.—Holy Trinity, Chester, Faculty to build out a new North Aisle to the westward of St. Patrick's Aisle, granted by Bishop Markham.....	1774
" 14.—The King George Packet lost off Hoylake, at the mouth of the Dee, and 165 passengers drowned.....	1806

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1297] CHESTER AS ARRANGED IN WARDS,
25TH HENRY VIII.

The following List of Wards, taken from the earliest Assembly Book in the Record-room of the Corporation, has its interest in the present day, when it is contemplated to again change the position of the several Wards, as revised at the passing of the Municipal Reform Bill in 1835.

Avoiding the tautology of the original document of 1583, it reads thus :—

"Item, Here After foloyth all the Wardes of the Citie of Chester, Viewid and Set out by the worshipfull HENRY GRE, Mayre of the said Citie, as Apperyth by a tabull made of the Same.

SAYNT GILIS WARDE.

"All the Colege of saynt Johns, withe Loue lane, and from Loue lane vpon both sides the strete estwarde so fere as the [Liberties] Lastethe; and in the same Warde is an ald'man and Constable and iij pore folks to lyue by Almes. And the Constable and pore folkes be admittyed by the Maire for the yere being w't consent of thalderman of the same Warde.

SAYNTE JOHNES WARD.

- From the Estgate on both sides the strete to lone-lane With Saynt Johnes Lane and Lone lane; and in the same warde is an Alderman, ij Constables and iij pore folkes to lyne by almys; and the constables and pore foulkes be Admyted, &c.

ESTGATE WARDE.

Fleeshmongers Lane, Saynt Werberows Lane, and so to the Estgate on Bothe sydis the strete; and in the same Warde is an Alderman, one Constable, and ij pore folks to lyne by Almys, and the Constable and pore folkes, &c.

SAYNT OSWALDS WARD.

Ffrom The Stolpis in the Corne market unto thende of the same strete Sothwarde on both sidis the same strete; and in the same wardes is an alderman, one constable, & . . . pore folks, &c.

THE CORNE MARKET WARD.

Ffrom the Same stoulpes in the corne market unto the p'sons lane, and the one haulfe of p'sons lane on the sothe side. And in the same warde is an alderman, one constable and ij pore folks &c.

THE NORTHGATE WARDE.

Ffrom the Northgate, wythe the barne lane and so unto the p'sons lane, and thone half of the same lane on the north side; and soe then the Crofts & to the Walls & northgate; and in the same ward is an alderman, one constable and ij pore folkes to lyne by almys &c.

SAYNT THOMAS WARDE.

Ffrom the Northgate w't the Lanes on bothe sides the Strete So far as the Liberties Lastes Northward; and in the same Warde is an alderman, one constable, ij pore folkes, &c.

SAYNTE PETERS WARDE.

Ffrom Fleeshmongers lane and saint Werburas lane upo' bothe sides the strete to saynt Petres Churohe; and in the same Warde is an Alderman, one Constable, and iij pore folks &c.

SAYNT BRYDE'S WARDE.

From Saynt Peter's Churohe on the West side of the strete, wythe the comon haule lane, Whytefrere lande [? lane], & thone haulfe of Cuppyngs lane on the northe syde; and in the same warde is an alderman; one constable, and iij pore foulks &c.

SAYNT MICHAELL'S WARDE.

Ffrom Saynt petres churohe on thest syde of ye strete, with pep' strete on the northe side; & in the same warde &c. and iij pore folkes &c.

THE BRYSTMARKET WARDE.

The one half of pep' strete on the Southe syde, and bothe sydes of the brige strete vnto the castyll lane & saynt olas lane; and in the same Warde &c.

SAYNT MARIES WARDE.

The Castell lane w't the west syde of brige strete & the west syde of hondbrige so far as the Lib'ties lastes; and in the same warde &c.

SAYNT OLA'S WARDE.

Saynt Olas lane w't thest syde of the bryge strete and thest side of hondbryge so far as the lib'ties lastes; and in the same Ward &c.

THE TRENTHE WARDE.

Ffrom Saynt Petres churohe on the northe Syde of Watergate strete vnto the Watergate, w't all laynes on the same syde the strete; and in the same &c.

SAYNT MARTYN'S WARDE.

Ffrom Saynt Peters Churohe, on the South side of Watergate stret vnto the Watergate, w't all lanes on the same side the strete; and in the same Warde is an alderman two constables and two pore foulks to lyne by allmas, and the constables and Pore foulkes be Admytt'd by the mayre for the yere Beinge by consent of thy alderman of the same Warde." T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1298] WILLIAM FINMORE (OR FINMERE), ARCH-DEACON OF CHESTER.

This Dignitary of the Church of Chester was born in 1622 or 1623, and belonged to the family of Finmore of Hincksey, co. Berks, the name being doubtless derived from Finmere, near Brackley, in the co. Oxon. Several members of the family entered the University, and there are some notes relating to them in Hearn's MS. Diaries. The name of William Finmore's father will be found in the matriculation registers. He was of Westminster School, under the care of Dr. Busby, the celebrated flogger. Thence he was elected to a studentship in Christ Church, Oxford, 1642 (*Alums. Westm.* p. 118), where he became a tutor. According to Walker (*Sufferings*, ii. 111) he was ejected from his studentship. If this statement be correct, as is very probable, he must have been in some way soon restored to his former position; for he became tutor there to Philip (the father of Matthew) Henry, elected from Westminster in 1647. Matthew Henry asserts that Finmore was "in" with the party that was uppermost; and he further sketches his character thus: "A person able enough, but not willing, to employ his abilities for the good of those that were committed to his charge; towards whom he had little more than the name of tutor." (*Williams' Life of Philip Henry*, 1825, pp. 15, 437; *Wordsworth's Eccles. Biog.*, ed. 1818, vi. 189). He became M.A. 25th June, 1649 (*Wood's Fasti*, ii. 121). Meanwhile Finmore watched with interest the events of the war, his sympathies being unquestionably with the Royalists, whose possession of the city infected the students with a military ardour. He seems to have admired Colonel Gage, the gallant leader of the column of 800 foot and horse, which left Oxford 9th Sept., 1644, to relieve Basing House,—a successful service for which the Colonel was knighted, 1st Nov. On the occasion of a sortie from Oxford to break down Columb Bridge, Sir Henry Gage, who was at that time Governor of Oxford, met his death, 11th January, 1645;

and that event was celebrated, amongst others, by Finmore, who wrote these lines which now appear in print for the first time. They occur in the valuable Longleat MSS. (Coventry Papers, D. K. 46) in possession of the Marquis of Bath, through whose courtesy, and that of the Rev. Canon Jackson, who was good enough to make an exact copy, I was put in possession of them.

ON THE DEATH OF SIR HENRY GAGE.

Drumms beate an onset; let the Rebells feele
How sharpe our greife is, by our sharper steels.
How valiant was our Knight, how wise, how good,
Let it be written in the Rebells' blood.

Though *Browne* himself with all his trait'rous crew
Had in ye enterprize receiv'd what's due
To theire rebellion, sudden death: had all
Beene sacrific'd unto our *Gage's* fall;
Our losse were greater, yet the Bridge was downe
And the performance did the action crowne:
So ye without Hyperbole may say
We got the Victory, but lost the day.

Such alwaies is our gaine, & such our losse,
Whilst we like prodigalls against their drosse
Stake gold & pearle: our losse is greates when least,
What can we get who venture men for beasts?
Our meanest souldier w'ch in battell dyes
Exceeds theire best, as farre as Truth doth Lies,
Or vertue vice, who then shall equall *Gage*
Our best of men? Noe Trophies can assuage
The sorrows due unto his Tragick Urne:
Who knew his vertues and abstaines to mourne?
His speech was mildnesse, Temperance his life
His carriage curtesy, as free from strife,
From rage, from fury as from cowardise,
Nor durst the Devill his owne broode entice
Doue or *Britannicus*, once to defile
His well-knowne actions with their tainted stile.

As for his valour *Norton* knew it well,
Onslow, crook't *Morley*, and the rest that fell
At *Basing's* most miraculous reliefe
Where every souldier did beyond believe,
Such courage he infus'd. His wearied Troope
With their long march began to faint and droope,
Not able to advance. *Gage* does alight
And now the foote can gallop to the fight,
They borrow'd life from him and motion too
And dare doe anything he bids them doe.

So great his vertues were, that when he failed,
No man was more below'd, none more bewail'd.
But let not bloody foes lift up their head
Because our army's flower's withered,
Neither let us be fearefull of the foe
Drooping our heads and fainting with the blow;
His renown'd acts will eternize his fame.
And we'll still fright the Rebells with his Name.

WILLIAM FINMORE.

For about ten years little has been recorded of Finmore. In the interval he was ordained, but his promotion in the Church only began at the Restoration. Casting his eyes upon the benefices of Lancashire and Cheshire, he was amongst those who applied for admission to one of the vacant fellowships at the Colle-

giate Church, Manchester. These fellowships were only three in number; but Charles II., after his royal manner, signed no less than five grants to them. The favoured individuals were Mr. William Finmore, Dr. Rhodes, Mr. Thomas Weston, Mr. Francis Mosley, and Mr. John Biroh. But the grants to the two former, viz., those of Finmore and Rhodes, were conceived invalid, because the Warden and Fellows were ordered to elect them; whereas there was but a Warden (Heyricke) and one Fellow (Newcome), who, by the foundation-charter, could make no election. The three others were elected by the King, and were admitted 17th Sept., 1660 (*Newcome's Autobiog.* p. 320).

In March, 1662, Finmore petitioned the King in reference to his claims to the place of King's preacher for the County Palatine of Lancaster, established by Queen Elizabeth, with a salary of £200 a year (for four preachers). The following document is taken from the *Domestico State Papers*, vol. lli., No. 138.

"To the King's Most excellent Majesty.

The humble Petition of *William finmore*, Clerke, sheweth,

That yo'r Ma'ties Royall Grandfather (after the example of Queene *Elizabeth*) was pleased for ye better instruction of his subjects in the County Palatine of Lancaster, by his Privy Seale to grant a pension of 200*li.* yearly to be payd to four such preachers as should preach in ye said County, and from time to time be nominated & signified to ye Receiver of ye Revenues of Lancaster, Westmorland, & Cumberland by the Bishop of *Chester* for ye time being, in writing under his hand. The which pension hath bin ever since continued, and the Bishoppes of *Chester*, according to ye trust unto them comitted, have from [time] to time appointed four fit persons, by ye name of King's Preachers, to preach in ye s'd County of Lancaster, and to receive each yearly for his pains fifty pounda.

That *Brian [Walton]*, late Bishop of *Chester*, appointed *John Lightfoot*, Clerk [Rector of *Bury*], to be one of the said Preachers instead of *Isaac Ambrose* [of *Garstang*] whom he judged unfit for ye s'd employment; and the said *John Lightfoot* being since dead *Henry [Ferne]*, late Bishop of *Chester*, in writing under his hand and seale, appointed yo'r Pet'r to succede him. Nevertheless *Thomas Blackburne* [who was a clergyman in the neighbourhood of *Bury* about 1647] upon suggestion that the s'd *Isaac Ambrose's* place was void, and in yo'r Ma'ties gift by the vacancy of ye Sea of *Chester*, procured the Greate Seale to succede the s'd *Isaac Ambrose*, thereby intending to defeat yo'r Petitioner of his right, or put him to a troublesome suit at law.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prayeth that yo'r Ma'ty would be grationally pleased to refer the premises to the L'd Bishop of London [*Sheldon*] and the L'd Bishop of Winchester [*Duppa*] to consider thereof, for releif of yo'r pet'r, that he may be established to obtaine Debentures for his s'd salary of 50*li.* from time to time as the same shall become due. And yo'r Pet'r shall ever pray, &c."

Annexed to this Petition is the following Certificate :

"These are to certify whom it may concerne, that William Finmore, Master of Arts and sometimes Student of Christchurch, in Oxford, is a person of good life and conversation, of great proficiency in learning, a very able preacher, and one that in these late times hath both by acting and suffering eminently testified his loyalty to the King, and his faithfulness to the church. In witness whereof we have hereunto sett our hands.

Feb. 4, 1661 [1661-2]

John Fell, dean of X't church.

Rich : Allestree, sub : deane of ch. ch.

J. Owen, Canon of Ch. Church."

Stretford.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

[1299] THE CONGLETON QUAKER'S MARE.

I send you the following interesting paragraph from the *Staffordshire Advertiser*, for August 23, under the impression you may deem it to deserve a permanent home in *THE SHEAF* :—

"CONGLETON.—On Sunday evening some members of the Society of Friends, residing at ALDERLEY, held a service at a burial ground belonging to the society, situated at EATON, about two and a half miles from Congleton.

The burial ground was established and set apart for members of the society over 200 years ago, and records exist showing that the remains of more than 200 persons have been buried there during the latter part of the 17th and first half of the 18th century.

The ground, which had got into a state of dilapidation, having most of the memorial stones carried away and its fences destroyed, has lately been restored and walled in, and a few of the stones have been recovered. One stone is in memory of the wife of a William Hall, respecting whom there is the following notice in the 'Life of William Penn' :—

"In 1699, during the mayoralty of Wm. Knight, a Quaker named William Hall, a shoemaker, was fined £20 by the mayor and justices for having a meeting at his house; for which his mare was distrained when his wife was riding on her, and some time after they seized on his shoes in his shop.' After narrating seizure of his furniture, it states 'that soon after the mare, of her own accord, came home, and the wife in William's absence let her in. The mare being cried, William went with two of his neighbours, and told the chief magistrate that he had the mare, and she was in the field without any look to hinder them from her; and that if they had more right to her than he they might fetch her otherwise if they pleased he would join issue with them to try whose the mare was. They refused his offer, and committed him to jail and arraigned him for his life as a felon, but he was acquitted by the judge and jury.'

Over 400 persons were present at the service, which was conducted by Mr. Pearson, of Alderley, who gave an address on some of the leading prin-

ciples of the Society of Friends. No formal prayers were used, but an interval was given for silent worship."

If the Burial and Marriage Register Book of this "meeting house" be really still in existence, it would probably furnish some curious matter for the edification of your readers.

JAS. HALL.

Queries.

[1300] OUTLYING PORTIONS OF COUNTIES AND PARISHES.

Has anybody ever yet satisfactorily accounted for straggling bits of one county being sometimes found, oddly enough, lying in perhaps the very centre of another?—and for the like peculiarity with regard to very many parishes in Cheshire and its vicinity? Many such instances occur to me as I write these thoughts, but it isn't so easy, I confess, to explain them. Cases of this sort on both sides the Mersey, induced by changes in the channel of that river, have been already alluded to in *THE SHEAF*; but it is to much earlier examples than those that my present enquiries are directed.

CAMBRO-BRITON.

[1301] THE HOGG HOUSE, CHESTER.

In or near to your old city in the 16th century there was a messuage or estate of some importance, bearing the somewhat pordne title of the Hogg House, but why I know not. Can any of your students of local history inform me why, and say where the house I refer to was situated?

H. S. A.

Replies.

[1302] OLIVER CROMWELL'S SWORD.

[No. 1196.—June 23.]

When I read this Query, a month or two ago, in *THE SHEAF*, it was about the last thought in my mind that it would ever lie in my power to answer it,—yet, so it is. An uncle of mine has some old volumes of the *Gentleman's Magazine* upon his library shelves; and to-day, looking into one of them quite casually, I came upon the following article, which seems to me to satisfactorily answer "J. A. WRIGHT's" enquiry. The writer does not give his name, but addresses his letter from

"Hawarden, June 3, 1793.

Mr. Urban,—

I do not know whether any of your correspondents have sent you information of a SWORD, which has the appearance of having been the property of OLIVER

CROMWELL. If there is no other account of it, accept the of the following imperfect one from a constant reader :—

It is from hilt to point 23½ inches long, the handle 5 inches long. The blade is two inches broad : there is a date on it lengthways on both sides opposite each other, thus ; 'ANNO, 1652,' in 2 lines—Between the date and the hilt on the right side across the blade are, in capital letters, 'SPES MEAS EST DEO'; next, the effigies of a half-length figure, seemingly with flowing hair, and round it an inscription, 'OLIVER CROMWELL PRO PARLIAM' AUT MORI'; and between that and the hilt, the effigies of a warrior on horseback. On the left side of the blade, next the date, 'SOLI DEO GLORIA'; and across it 'FIDE SED CVI VIDE,' and figures similar to other side.

This Sword (or, it may be, cutlass or hanger) was long in the possession of the WHITMORES, of Thurstaston, in Wirral, Cheshire. How it came into that family I know not; but it seems that it was highly prized by them, as the last Joseph Whitmore, Esq., is said to have refused fifty guineas for it from a gentleman in London who wished to have it deposited in some public museum.

It is now the property and in the hands of George Berks, gentleman, of Mold, Flintshire, in right of his wife Mary, widow of JOHN IGNATIUS WRIGHT, Esq., of Plas Issa, near Mold, and formerly of of BREWERS HALL near Chester. He was son of John Wright, Esq., of Brewers Hall, and married to his first wife, Mary the fifth daughter of the above Joseph Whitmore, Esq.; who by his last will left it to his son-in-law, John Ignatius Wright, Esq., on account of the relationship which his mother Mary, daughter of Sir John Gwilym, of Hartaeth, near Mold, was supposed to bear to the family of OLIVER CROMWELL.

The family of the Wrights came originally from Yorkshire, and settled at BICKLEY in Cheshire. John, the seventh in descent from the Wright who first settled at Bickley, *visit*, as the pedigree has it, 1583: his son, Richard Wright of Bickley, was Sergeant at Arms, anno 1801.

Sir St. John Gwilym, who is reported to have come from Yorkshire, married Miss Catherine Lloyd, sole daughter and heiress of Edward Lloyd, Esq., of Hartaeth, by his wife Catherine Wright, of Brewers Hall. They had issue Richard Lloyd Gwilym, who some time lived at Golbourn in Cheshire, and the aforesaid Mary, mother of John Ignatius Wright, Esq. Richard Lloyd Gwilym, Esq., married a Miss Whitley (probably of Aston in the parish of Hawarden), whose only son Richard Lloyd Gwilym, Esq., married Miss Jones of Burton, Flintshire. Their only daughter again, Catherine, was married to Francis Wardle, Esq., of Chester; whose only son Gwilym Lloyd Wardle, Esq., married Ellen, daughter and co-heiress of Love Parry, Esq., of Wernafawr, Caernarvonshire, and was High Sheriff of Flintshire, 1791. There is a good half length portrait of Sir St. John Gwilym at Hartaeth.

H. J."

Can anyone say where this CROMWELL SWORD is now preserved? I suspect it is still lying stowed away somewhere in one of the old mansions of Flintshire.

CAMBRO-BRITON.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- Sept. 15.—Burwardale Church, in Bunbury Parish, consecrated by Bishop Peplow 1735
 „ 16.—Chester City Boundaries walked by the Mayor and Citizens 1857
 „ 18.—Charles I. wrote to the Mayor of Chester, announcing his intended Visit to the city..... 1642
 „ 20.—Prince Arthur (13th Royal Earl of Chester), son of Henry VII., born..... 1486
 „ 21.—Holy Trinity new Burial Ground in the Crofts, Chester, consecrated by Bishop Sparke 1810
 J. H.

Original Documents.

[1308] THE MOTTERSHEAD FAMILY AND THEIR ARMORIAL BEARINGS.

In illustration of the notice of the descent of the MOTTERSHEAD family given in Mr. BARWAKER'S *History of East Cheshire*, Vol. II., page 355, the following letters will probably be found of interest. They are contained in *Harleian MS. No. 2146, folio 121, et seq.*, and it will be seen that they relate to a dispute respecting the right of the *Mottersheads* to bear the arms of MOTTRAM; and that the Heralds finally allowed the claim made by the MOTTERSHEADS to the said arms, having had sufficient proof of their descent in the male line from the Mottram family, though the surname had been changed :—

"S'r

It seems there are some p'sons take Exoeptions that the late Mr. Mottershead, of Maccolesfield, was interred with Echocheons, and have made some complaints in the Heralds Office above; which looks like an act of Envie, but noe body is free to owne itt, nor canne wee come to know our accuso'rs, which were but reasonable.

S'r, 'tis true that family is growne now to a very few in number, and tho' the Gentl' who is lately gone has left a very full & Plentifull Estate, yett aswell those few branches of his family which are left, as myselfe & fellow Ex'rs, are too much strang'rs to their Rights; and I am sure wee did noe more for

the late dece'd att his funeral then had vsually beene donne for his Ancestors and p'decessors of that familie not onely here, but both att London and Chester alsoe; and yett by reason of our comeing strangers into the concerne, and unskillfullnesse in business of this nature, wee cannott aunswere for what wee have donne to that degree wee are confident his Evidences will give vs a founding bottom for, without the assistance of you or some one else bett'r acquainted in Herrauldry then wee are, and wee make Applicac'on to noe body besides yo'rself, I therefore pray give vs a true Acco'tt what you find in yo'r Office which may be for the justification of the Armes due to this family and given in Escocheons att Mr. Motterahedd's funeral, and what Aunswere is best to bee by vs returned to the inclosed Letter, and how I must direct itt: pray bee neither backward nor short in yo'r directeing acco'tt to vs, and the bearer has ord'rs to gratifie yo'r paines therein, which is all from S'r Yo'r
12o April The vnkowne y'tt humble
1692. Serv't J. LOWE.

(Addressed) These
To Mr. Randle Holme
in Bridge Streets
in

CHESTER.
p'nt."

[Sealed with an armorial seal which is now illegible.]

"MR. HOLME

I received the scocchion and under stand that this Cotte belongeth to our one ansestours of Motterham, for our gran father Came out of that familley of which we are: his name was Adam Motterahed, & lived in Macklesfield, and his father was Tho. Motterahed of Motterham, and he married Mary Wyche, of Ald'rley, daughter to Mr. Wyche, and had Issue, & was heire to ye Estate in Motterham sinth my Brother hath purch's'd y't Estate and dyed possessed of; and wee have sent you a Copple of ye ould writtings, & would have you to make a pertickuler sarch, for hee being the nearaste ye Cotte, whold have you put in Motterahed of Macklesfield, for wee would knowe of you wather ye Cotte doth not perticulourly belonge to use, & to give us a full account as you Cane.
5 April, 1692.

See I Beste yo'r's,
Macklesfield. JOANE HOLLINSHED.

[Addressed] These
for Mr. Randle Holme,
in Chester.

Seal: Arms: "On a chevron between 3 cross-crosets, as many cinquefoils, a crescent in middle chief."

RANDLE HOLME appears to have communicated with the College of Arms and received a paper, dated April, 1692, and signed by "Sir Jo: Dugdale, Norroy," and "Gregory King, Lancaster Herald, Register of the College of Armes," (a copy of which will be found at fo. 124) which authorised the Mottersheads to bear the arms, "*Sable, on a chevron Argent, 3 cinquefoils gules,*

between 3 cross-crosets or," being "the coat borne by the name of Motterham of Mottram, w'ch took the name of Mottershed, from the owning of an ancient parcel of land called Mottershed in the Lordship of Mottram." There is a long report annexed, which shows the descent of the Mottersheads from the Mottram family.

Thelwall.

J. PAUL RYLANDS.

Notes.

[1804] WILLIAM FINMORE (OR FINMERE), ARCHDEACON OF CHESTER.

In the year 1662, Finmore obtained the vicarage of Buncoorn in Cheshire. The Rev. John Greswell, master of the College-school in Manchester, does not name the family in his *Account of Buncoorn*.

Finmore held several offices in the Cathedral of Chester. On 25th July, 1664, he was collated Prebendary of the Sixth Stall in succession to Dr. Mallory (Ormerod i. 271; Le Neve iii. 271; & Wood, *Fasti*, ii. 121). On 6th Nov., 1666, he was instituted Archdeacon of Chester in succession to John Carter (Ormerod i. 115; Kennett, 333; Le Neve, iii. 206; *Fasti*, ii. 121). He also held at various times the office of Treasurer to the Cathedral.

He does not seem to have printed a single sermon; otherwise there might have been mention of him in Letsome or Cooke. He died on the 7th of April, 1686, and he was buried in the north aisle of St. Mary's Chapel in Chester, where a monumental inscription, which has been kindly copied by Mr. Thomas Hughes, F.S.A., perpetuates his memory:—

H · S · E

In spe beatae Resurrectionis
Reverendus GUILIELMUS FYNMORE,
Ecclesie CESTRIENSIS Archidiaconus
et Præbendarius necnon per aliquam multos
annos ibidem THESAURARIUS ac RECEPTOR,
quo utroque munere, ad Mortem usque,
suo cum laude & aliorum Fructu, Functus est.
Vir aliqui cum Suavitate et Probitate
Morum, tum varia Eruditione atq' constanti
in REGEM Fide undiqueque SPOTABILIS.
Diem obiit mense Aprili vi'o MDUS Anno Salutis
Humanae MDCLXXXVI
ÆTATIS suæ Climacterico LXIII.
In Memorium Desideratissimi
MARITI Pientissima CONJUX
M. P.

On a small tablet added at the foot of the original Monument, is the following Inscription:—

"This Monument was
Repaired by
CAPT. RICHARD FYNMORE
MDCLXXXIII."

He was twice married. His first wife is thus described on an inscription upon a tablet in the north aisle of Runcorn Church (Ormerod, i. 676):—

"Between these pillars | the bodies of two devout women | rest in hope, | Philippa Finmore of Oxford, | deceased August 8, 1672, and Anne Breck of Wyrall, January 30, 1671-2, | both good wives, good neighbours, | good subjects, good Christians, | most intimate in their lives | and in the grave they are not divided. | Gulielmus Finmore maritus, | amicus, posuit | brevi seipsum positurus."

Of the second wife, who placed the monument in Chester Cathedral, a notice is to be found in the Diary of Cartwright, Bishop of Chester, the favourer of the proceedings of James II. On the 5th October, 1687, we read: "Mrs. Ferimore [*sic*] was with me to demand payment of her husband's salary as Archdeacon, because she supplied the place till Michaelmas in preaching."

His successor at Runcorn was Robert Cheshyre, M.A., elder brother to Sir John Cheshyre, the celebrated lawyer. There was a relationship between the two families, for the above-named Robert married the daughter of Archdeacon Finmore (Woolrych's *Lives of Eminent Serjeants-at-Law*, 1869, Vol. ii. 510-11.)

The loyalty of the family to the Stuart dynasty was perpetuated to another generation. To *Notes and Queries*, Fifth Series, i. 62, a letter was contributed which is believed to have been written by one of the WILLIAM FINMORES to his son at Oxford, who had sent a request for money. In sending a draft, the father, who might have been the original of Addison's foxhunter, expressed his satisfaction at his son's conduct on the birthday of "that old rump rogue with an Orange," viz., William III. Some very extraordinary advice follows. He proceeds: "Our family have always been in the true old cause, and we will live and dye by it, Boy. Damn the rump—that is my motto. Old England will never thrive nor see any good days till it is thoroughly roasted. Your godfather, Sir John [Cheshyre] dined with me yesterday; he asked kindly after you. We drank nine bottles of stum, and talked over all matters."

Stretford, Manchester.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

We append to Mr. BAILEY's valuable communication, the following entries copied from the Register Book of St. Peter's, Chester:—

"Mr. William Fynmore, Archdeacon of Chester, married Mrs. Mary Bennett, [? daughter of Mr. John Bennett, Barber Chirurgion] of this parish, Sep. 22, according to ye tenor [of] a Licence, dated Sep. 21, 1678.

Jane Fynmore, daughter of Mr. William, Archdeacon of Chester, & Mary his wife, was born 19 Jan., bapt. 2 Feb., 1680.

Sarah Fynmore, d. of ye aforesaid Mr. William F., was born October 21, bapt. 1 Nov. 1683.

(The two former were baptized in ye Cathedral by mee, Wm. Thompson.)"

EDITOR.

[1805]

A WELSH CUSTOM.

As CHESTER has been so intimately connected with the Principality, and as the individual addressed was a CHESHIRE man, the EDITOR may, perhaps, not think the following Petition, on which I have just stumbled, inappropriate to THE SHEAF:—

"To the Most Honourable Sheriff of the County of CARNARVON.

The humble Petition of THOMAS ROBERTS, Hed Bailiff for the Severall Hundreds of Enochgerfens and Eiles Garfan, appointed to Sarve Under the Sheriff for the said County appointed for the present year:

Showeth, that the General Custom Yearley is that the said Hed Bailiff Regularly Petition the Sheriffs for few sum of money as "Almes" or Charrity. What Ever the Honourable Sheriffs may Place; to bestowed on me I'm hopes that I shall [do] and fullfull my duty in all Respect to Place your Honour and your Worthey Debity.

The Sum or which Ever Sum your Honours will be place to Give Shall be thankfull for. I am, with the Greatest Respect, your moast obedient and faithfull Duty man,

THOS. ROBERTS, Hed Bailiff.

Carnarvon, 14th April, 1829."

[Addressed]

"DANIEL VADREY, Esq.,

Hy Sheriff for the

County of

Carnarvon."

B. LL. V.

Tushingham Hall.

[1806]

MR. HUSKISSON'S DEATH.

The following account of this tragic event, which cast a gloom over what deserved to be, and indeed was, a grand national event, is from the pen of a lady, almost all her life connected with CHESTER and still happily resident amongst us, who was a prominent actor in the events following on the sad disaster:—

"Just fifty years ago this very day (September 15, 1830), we at ECCLES Vicarage were looking forward to the opening of the first passenger railway—the Liverpool and Manchester—the Line which STEPHENSON had just finished.

"I had been away from home, but a curious presentiment forced me to return, in spite of ludicrous difficulties as to transport. At eight o'clock on the morning of the 15th a man came in to see my husband, and, finding he was not at home, asked me "What should be done? Part of the line was unprotected, and the Duke (of Wellington) was so unpopular they feared an attack!" "There are some special constables," said he, "but their licenses have expired." I replied, "Never mind licenses on a day like this." (It was the time of *the Bill*.) "Where can I find them?" "I'll find them." And by eleven o'clock I had collected fifty men armed with cudgels, and was then quite ready to sit in the tent in a field overlooking the Line, and wait the arrival of the train. We did wait, and got very

tired and anxious; for it rained, and the tent got thoroughly soaked.

"At last, instead of a shout of triumph, we heard a wailing roar, 'He's dead!' 'Where are they taking him to?' 'What has happened?' We did not know; we saw a carriage coming slowly along, and a sorely wounded man being carried up the side of the cutting. The man wore a medal on his breast, and by that I knew it was not my husband. I flew round to the front gate, and met the men carrying him in.

"It was a very sad time, and I scarcely thought at the moment how it could have happened, but I remember it all vividly now, though half a century has intervened. MR. HUSKISSON, M.P. for Liverpool, was standing between the lines, and, a little flustered with the DUKE OF WELLINGTON passing close to him, did not see that the "Rocket" engine was about to pass. Nor would it much have mattered, had not the *Duke's state carriage had a very large door; which, swinging open across the line, knocked him down, and the train went instantly over him, injuring him fearfully and fatally!*

"He asked, 'Where am I?' 'At Eccles Vicarage.' 'They're good people; they won't mind the trouble.' We did not, indeed. The saddest part was being with poor MRS. HUSKISSON, who, for an hour after the accident occurred, had not been able to find out, in that monstrous crowd, where her poor husband had been taken to. He died that night at a quarter to nine. Her grief was terrible! It was very hard to disturb her when a deputation came from LIVERPOOL, to ask that he might be buried there. She did not consent at first, but finally gave way.

"Some time after she sent me a beautiful Bible, with the words "I was a stranger and ye took me in;" and she sent £20 annually for the poor of ECCLES as long as we lived there.

"The kindness and sympathy shown by everyone, from the poorest villager to the Duke of Wellington, was very great; but LORD GRANVILLE's, then French Ambassador, was more helpful and full of tact than that of anyone else.

"One class of people who did not share in the kind thoughtfulness of almost everyone else, was that of the newspaper reporters. While MR. HUSKISSON lay dying, a messenger came, as if from the Duke, and tried to force his way into the sick-room, before I discovered that he was a "reporter" in an old yeomanry uniform. He did not succeed in his design for all that; nor did any others, who tried just as perseveringly, if with less effrontery.

EMMA ANN BLACKBURN.

Spring Hill."

DEAN STANLEY, in his "Memoirs of Catherine and Edward Stanley," publishes a letter written by the former in which she speaks of meeting

"MRS. TOM BLACKBURN, Vicarress of Eccles, who immortalised herself by her activity, sense, and conduct all through, on "the day of the Opening of the Railway."

EDITOR.

Queries.

[1307] FOUNDATION AND CORNER STONES.

There has of late years grown up a practice in Cheshire, and no doubt elsewhere, during the building of Wesleyan and Nonconformist Chapels, on which I should like to frame a Query. They usually have what is called a Stone-laying Day, on which the married men and ladies of the connexion are brought prominently to the front, often indeed from a considerable distance from the place itself: these during the proceedings, are privileged to lay, with befitting form, a certain number of corner and angle stones, on the front of which their names, &c., are sculptured, and on the top of which they are expected to deposit some substantial evidence of their interest in the work. I have seen as many as half a dozen such stones laid in CHESTER in one day; and no doubt, vanity apart, it is a very excellent method of bringing grist to the mill.

Is this custom one of modern origin; and if so, who was the inventor of this excellent *coup* in finance? If an old idea, can anything assimilating to it be pointed out in our Cheshire annals?

L. L.

[1308] ST. BRIDGET'S OLD CHURCH, CHESTER.

I have been told that certain of the windows of this old Church, when it was taken down by Act of Parliament to open out a good approach to the CASTLE and GROSVENOR BRIDGE, half a century ago, were utilised for some other public building in this city. Is there any real foundation for this statement, or is it one of those floating rumours that occasionally agitate, only to bewilder and disappoint, the historic enquirer?

H. S. A.

[1309] NAFTEL THE ARTIST.

In what way was this now eminent artist associated with Chester? I don't think he was born there, but my late father-in-law once told me, when standing with him opposite to a beautiful drawing in one of the London Water Colour Exhibitions ten or fifteen years ago, that the painter of it, MR. NAFTEL, and he were personal friends together at Chester in his young bachelor-hood, say 40 or 50 years ago. Did he paint any Cheshire subjects, and if he did, where can any such be seen?

Birkenhead.

LUCKY D. T.

Replies.

[1810] CHESHIRE HERONRIES.

[Nos. 1226, 1246.—July 24, 28.]

The present *Rookery* at CARDEN was originally an extensive HERONRY. I understand that WILLIAM LECHES did away with it, being so near the Hall, as the effluvia from the putrid fish bones made it very objectionable.

Attracted by the trout stream and "The Pool," HERONS are still very frequent visitants. On one occasion, it was impossible the fire in the "Island Cottage" kitchen could be lit; and, on examining the chimney the next day, the keepers discovered that the Herons had built it up nearly to the top!

Clifton.

E. A. L.

[1811] THOMAS BATESON, ORGANIST OF CHESTER CATHEDRAL.

[Nos. 1175, 1264.—June 9, Aug. 11.]

I redeem my promise to give a few particulars of THOMAS BATESON, who was I have some reason to believe a Cheshire man, and a native of Wirral. I shall perhaps do this most concisely by quoting as follows, from the excellent *Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, now in progress of publication:—

"One of the great English madrigalian composers of the Elizabethan period. The dates of his birth and decease are unknown; but we may infer that he was a young 'practitioner in the art' when he produced his 'First Set of Madrigals' in 1604, wherein he compares his compositions to 'young birds feared out of their nest before they be well feathered,' and hopes they will be 'so shrouded' in 'the leaves of his patron's good liking,' so that neither any 'ravenous kite nor craftie fowler, any open mouth Momus or mere shy detractor, may devour or harm them that cannot succour or shift for themselves.'

At the back of the dedication to his 'honourable and most respected good friend Sir William Norres,' is the madrigal 'When Oriana walkt to take the ayre,' with the following note. 'This song was sent too late, and should have been printed in the set of Orianas' (a set of madrigals in praise of Queen of Elizabeth, published in 1601). In 1599, five years prior to the date of his first publication, he was appointed Organist of Chester Cathedral, which situation he held till 1611. Shortly after this date he went to reside in Ireland, under the patronage of Lord Chichester, and in 1618 published his 'Second Set of Madrigals.' On the title-page of this work he styles himself 'Bachelor of Musick, Organist and Master of the Children of the Cathedral Church of the Blessed Trinity, Dublin.' In the university of the latter city he is supposed to have taken his degree. Bateson's First Set of Madrigals was reprinted by the Musical Antiquarian Society, and

specimens of his church music are in the same society's 'Anthems by Composers of the Madrigalian Era.'"

The Registers of St. Oswald's Parish, Chester, contain the following entries:—

"Thomas Batesonne, the son of Mr. Bateson, Organist, Bapt'd 8 Septe', 1603.

Jane Badson, the daughter of Mr. Thomas Badson, Organist, baptized the sixteenth daye Maye, 1605.

Sarah Bateson, the Daughter of Thomas Bateson, Bapti'd xxixth of March, 1607."

These seem to have been the only children born to the Organist during his residence at Chester; but he had certainly one other son, Richard, who was a Founder of the King's School at Chester from December 25, 1611, to June 24, 1615. I should be inclined to believe therefore that Bateson remained in the city, though not in office, some time after 1611, the date given in the above extract.

T. HUGHES.

SEPTEMBER 22, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Sept. 22.—Llandulas Viaduct, destroyed in the Storm of August 17, rebuilt within five weeks, and this day officially inspected and passed for traffic	1879
„ 23.—Roger Friend, Abbot of Chester, died...	1249
„ 24.—King Charles I. entertained by the Corporation of Chester at the Pentice	1642
„ 25.—St. Matthew's Chapel, Buckley, co. Flint, consecrated by Bishop G. H. Law, of Chester.....	1822
„ 26.—Royal Commission issued at Chester "to search for concealed arms,"	1642
„ 27.—Grand Festival of Music at Chester Cathedral,—Madam Catalani and Mr. Braham amongst the singers.....	1814
„ 28.—St. James' Chapel, Latchford, consecrated by Bishop Porteus	1781

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1812] THE CARDEN PACK OF HOUNDS.

There have been Hounds kept at CARDEN from time immemorial. I merely trace them from the time LORD GROSVENOR presented *his* to WILLIAM LECHES in 1768.

On the death of WILLIAM LECHES the country was hunted by his relative the first SIR RICHARD PULESTON, of Emral—of course with the exception of those

Coverts designated by LORD GROSVENOR as *only* to be drawn when Mr. LECHE was there in person.

About a couple of years after Mr. LECHE's son, JOHN HURLESTON LECHE, attained his majority—(I cannot call to mind the exact date), the Hounds were given up to him. He hunted them many years, and eventually disposed of them to our neighbour Mr. ATTEY, then residing at PENLEY HALL, a nephew of Sir Thos. Whichcote, a good rider and a very gentlemanly, honourable person. *As far as I can understand*, the present Lord Combermere afterwards undertook "the Mastership"; until at length, as still, the popular Sir WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNN hunts the CARDEN Coverts.

The Memorandum following is copied from the original in my possession, and is dated

"EATON, Nov. 21st, 1768.

I have this day given to WILLIAM LECHE, Esq., my Pack of Fox Hounds, together with all my right in those Countrys they Hunted while they belonged to me, and particularly BLACON WOOD; and their Liberty of Hunting in any part of WORRELL when their Master (now Mr. LECHE) is out in Person with them.

GROSVENOR.

N.B.

The last part refers to an Agreement to that purpose made between me and Mr. JOHN S. BARRY, when at Tarpo'ly we fixed and particularised our different Countrys. G."

The silver twisted Horn presented with the Hounds to WILLIAM LECHE is now at CARDEN PARK, and has the above date inscribed on it; and used always to be placed on the Dining-room mantelpiece when the Hounds met at the Hall.

The Letter now to be given is without date, but was probably written by WILLIAM LECHE not many seasons after the Hounds had passed to him by the gift of their former Master:—

"My Lord,

You were so obliging as to tell me, when you were last in the country, you wou'd send me a couple of Hounds, and as the Breeding season is now coming on, hope you'll excuse my putting you in mind of them. I hope my applying will not make you have a worse opinion of the Pack than you had before you put them in my Possession.

I took the liberty of offering the Hounds to the Gentlemen of the TARPORLEY HUNT, but they would not condescend to go out with them; yet, were so obliging as to send for answer that they should be glad of my company there when agreeable: so I did myself the pleasure of waiting on them on Thursday, when I observed they had not kept up their usual custom of hanging a Fox's brush to their Bell. The reason why, I did not ask, but as these Hounds have had the honour of supplying them before,

I went out in the Morning with that intention, had very good diversion with one half the Pack, and

killed him fairly above ground, after a run of 4 hours & a half:—while the other half ran another, and pressed him so hard that he took into a barn for shelter, where we took him up alive, and preserved him for another day. I sent SAM off the Field to TARPORLEY with the Brush, in hopes it would convince them I would do anything in my power to oblige them.

If I have done anything amiss, I hope Y'r Lordship will be so much my Friend to tell me of it, that I may behave better in future.—Am, with Comp'ts to L'DY GROSVENOR, Y'r much obliged & Obedient Ser't,
W. LECHE."

The following Letter of LORD GROSVENOR's, also among my papers, will not be without interest in connection with those preceding it:—

"Dear Sir,

My Horses are just going to GRANTHAM [Lincolnshire,] and I intend to be there myself to Hunt on Monday seven night, when hope to have the pleasure to meet you and CHARLES MYTTON.

The "George" Inn at Grantham is the House we put up at, and where my Hunters are order'd too.

Y'r's very sincerely,

GROSVENOR.

Gros'r Square,

March ye 8th,

1775.

[Addressed] "To

WILLIAM LECHE, Esq're,

at Carwarden,

near Chester,

Cheshire.

Free,

Grosvenor."

Clifton.

E. A. LECHE.

Notes.

[1818] OWEN GLYNDWR'S REVOLT.

(Continued from No. 1291.)

Several of the outlying Welsh Castles were in serious straits as the Rebellion took firmer root, some of them being short of provisions, and others actually beleaguered by the enemy.

The squirearchy and yeomen of Cheshire had been summoned by their fealty to attend the Prince in armed force to relieve these Castles; but many Cheshire men were either in sympathy with OWEN and the deposed royal line, or didn't relish leaving their snug homes in the country to try conclusions with the Welshmen. Thus in

"1463, June 15, a Writ was issued to the Escheator of Cheshire to seize the lands of those who had failed to appear at the Prince's summons to attend him in his journey to the rescue of HARDELAUGH [Harlech] Castle, then besieged."

Just at the same time, the day before in fact, there was issued a

"Commission, by Henry Prince of Wales, to Howel ap Ithel ap Tudor, David ap Bleth' ap Ithel, Rees Wyn ap David ap Ithel, and Griffith ap Ken' ap Bleth', four well affected Welsh magnates, to appoint watchers, &c., in the most fitting places in the Commote of Coleshull against the coming of the Rebels, who were lying in wait in the marches of the County of Flint [3 and 4 Henry IV., m. 8 (1).]"

GLYNDWR's army, which, as we have seen, was in force in Hopedale, and not strictly amongst friends, found itself in trouble as to its commissariat. Thereupon, sundry incursions and "requisitions" were made across the Dee, the men of Wirral in that day, like the Birmingham gunsmiths of our own, not being averse to turn a nimble penny even at the expense of their dubious loyalty. So in

"1403, June 26, a Commission went forth to John Huet of Puddington, Thomas Hugynsone of Burton, and Thomas Atkynsone of the same place, to seize all grain, &c., in the hundred of Wirral sold to the Welsh; who, the Prince had heard, entered by night and day, by certain fords "ultra aquam de Dee," and carried thence a great quantity of grain, &c., for the support of the Rebels, contrary to proclamation [3 and 4 Henry IV., m. 8 d. (8).]"

Four days later, a Writ was issued to prohibit the export of grain from Wirral to the men of Flint and of the Lordship of Denbigh, Denfrenolwyt, Harwardyn, and Hopedale.

And now the fever was at its height, for HENRY PERCY, the proud Hotspur, had forsaken the royal standard and gone over with his forces to the enemy! The King himself, rising to the occasion, in concert with his privy council, despatches on the 25th July, a

"Commission to Prince Henry, to punish, and, if he thought fit, to pardon, in the King's name, all rebels of the Counties of Chester and Flint and Lordship of Denby, who were in rebellion in the train of Henry Percy, son of the Earl of Northumberland [3 & 4 Henry IV., m. 10 d. (3).]"

A month afterwards, his attempts at temporising with the followers of Hotspur having apparently failed, the Prince issues on

"Aug. 25, 1403, a Commission to WILLIAM DE STANLEY and JOHN DE PULL, Knights, JOHN LYTHERLAND and JOHN DEL MEOLLES, as conservators and guardians of the hundred of Wirral, to appoint watches, and make dyches, hedges, and other impediments on the sea-coast of the County of Flint, against the coming of Glyndwr, who was then in the Marches of the County of Chester [3 & 4 Henry IV., m. 10 d. (6).]"

Next in order comes that startling Royal Writ of September 4, 1403, which has been already printed at length in Vol. I. of THE SHEAF, p. 36, for the expulsion of all Welshmen, or the descendants of Welshmen, from the City of Chester, on pain of instant decapitation!

Many of the citizens themselves, by siding openly or covertly with the insurrection, ran the like chance of decapitation; but were finally let off, with their brother sinners in the county, on the following terms:—

"1403, Nov. 8. General pardon to the people of the County of Chester who took part in the insurrection of Henry Percy, on payment by the said people of a fine of 3,000 marks."

And, the same day,

"The like pardon to the Mayor and Commonalty of the City on the payment of a fine of 300 marks, or on their finding shipping and provisions for the transport of the men going in the King's retinue to the rescue of BEAUMARIS Castle."

The Citizens chose the latter alternative, and there occurs upon the rolls a

"Memorandum of the appearance of Robert Castal before Roger Brescy, Vice Chamberlain of Cheshire, to testify to the fulfilment by the said Mayor & Commonalty of the conditions contained in their Charter of Pardon, touching the rescue of the Castle of Beaumaris; and of the delivery of the said Charter to Ralph de Hatton, the Mayor, and John de Arwe and John del Hall, sheriffs, & John de Ewlowe, citizen of Chester."

No doubt on this occasion the Mayor and citizens brought once more into active service the little navy improvised just sixteen months before at their Prince-Earl's call; and likely enough, though the record doesn't state so in terms, His Worship and his two Sheriffs, in their barge "The Trynite," were present in person when the siege was raised of the Castle of Beaumaris.

One more section will, I think, complete the Story of the Revolt as told in the venerable parchments known as the CHESHIRE RECORDS.

Curzon Park.

H. TAYLOR.

[1314] CHESTER ELECTION PAPERS.

In addition to the list of Chester Election Papers, sent to THE SHEAF by CESTRIENSIS, I send you the following on the same subject:—

"1. An Alphabetical List of the Freemen who Polled at the Election for Representatives in Parliament for the City of Chester, begun on Monday the 5th, and ended on Friday, the 16th day of April, 1784.

Chester: Printed by J. Fletcher 1790

2. Sketch of the Political History of the City of Chester.

Chester: Printed by J. Fletcher 1790

3. A Sketch of the Political History of the City of Chester, from the Commencement of its Corporate Authority. By Ralph Eddowes, Esq.

Chester: Printed by C. W. Leadbeater... 1809

4. The Chester Poll Book, containing the names of the Voters who Polled at the Election for Members of Parliament, which commenced on Thursday the 8th October, and concluded on Tuesday, the 20th of the same month, 1812.

Chester: Printed by J. Fletcher..... 1812"

There is included in this last one a wood-cut, purporting to be a likeness of Sir Richard Brooke, one of the candidates,—a sure proof of the depths of human depravity; as you will admit, when I tell you that the very same "picture" (reversed) is inserted in front of Monk's account of the Trial of John Lomas and Edith Morrey for the wilful murder of George Morrey in the same year, and under it is printed JOHN LOMAS. The trial took place in August, 1812; the election in October; it is clear, therefore, that the wood-cut was intended for Lomas, and was then utilized as the "picture" of Sir Richard Brooke upon an Election Squib.

CASTRA.

Queries.

[1315] ARCHBISHOPS LAWRENCE AND WILLIAM BOOTH.

I want to know somewhat of these two Worthies' connection with CHESHIRE, and any particulars that may be available as to the place of their death and burial. Did either of them hold any Cheshire or North Welsh preferment?

CAMBRO-BRITON.

[1316] BRADFORD THE MARTYR.

Would anyone kindly tell me, if known, where the mother of JOHN BRADFORD, the martyr, resided after his death (for she was alive, I am told, when he was burnt at Smithfield in 1555); and did the martyr's brother ROGER live at any time in the parish of MOBBERLEY, Cheshire?

Also, could anyone inform me of anything relating to a CAPTAIN BRADFORD, who, I am told, was one of Cromwell's best men, and a descendant of the Martyr's family?

Great Saughall.

W. H. BRADFORD.

[1317] SIR THOMAS WILLIAMS, BART.

In the Parish Register Book of ST. OSWALD'S, CHESTER, I have come across the following entry, which somewhat puzzles me:—

"Rob't, the sonne of S'r Tho: Williams, Barronett, buried 15th o Aprilis, 1630."

Who can this titled gentleman have been? I cannot find him in any edition of the Peerage or Baronetcy accessible to me. If his description as above be correct, he was a Baronet half a century prior to either those of Wynnstey or Bodelwyddan; but he appears, if so, to have passed away, and left no sign.

G. T.

Replies.

SHOLLEGH.

[1318]

[Nos. 1139, 1163.—May 12, 26.]

I am pleased to be able to give your indefatigable correspondent, "LUCY D. T.," what she will probably consider a satisfactory answer to her Query as to the locality of SHOLLEGH, which she correctly assumed to be on the west side of Cheshire. In the Appendix to the 23rd Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records, I find that in the

"40th Edward III. (1367), THOMAS, son of JOHN DE BELGRAVE, and JOAN, his wife, and JOHN DE BESTON, parson of the church of Alderley, with WILLIAM DE SALGHTON [Saughton], parson of the church of Pulford, passed a fine for the manors of PULFORD and BUYTON, near Aldford; as also for 16 messuages, 400 acres of land, 14 acres of meadow, 100 acres of heath, 18s. 3d. rent, and a fourth part of the manor of SHOLLEGH, in Claverton, Broxton, Crokealdreshay, and Waverton, and for the advowson of the church of PULFORD."

SHOLLEGH therefore is synonymous with what we of the present day know as CHOWLEY, and is very often spelt Chollegh in the Palatinate Records.

THOMAS DE BELGRAVE, who settled his estates as above, was the clever Lothario, who in 1363, and equally with an eye to business, persuaded the young heiress, JOAN DE PULFORD, his neighbour, to run away with him, and link her fate and broad acres with his; and it is to this very match that the Duke of Westminster owes the fact that so large a portion of his Cheshire domain lies within so perfect a ring fence.

G. T.

[1319]

POOR OLD B.

[No. 1252.—August 4.]

The melancholy event, referred to in your correspondent's extract from a Chester Tradesman's diary of 1811, will be best explained by the following paragraph, which appeared in the *Chester Courant* of the time. It will be seen that "POOR OLD B." was a gentleman of some influence and standing, and had in his early days been an officer in the army; his descendants, too, very many of them, were soldiers of distinction in the East India Company's service.

The *Courant* for New Year's Day, 1811, thus records the story of his death:—

"The family and friends of Solomon Boileau, Esq., of this city, have been thrown into the deepest affliction by his loss. On Friday, the 21st inst., he passed the evening at the house of a friend, which he left at about eleven o'clock, and has not since been heard of; but from the circumstance of his hat being found the next morning near the bottom of Crane-street, it is supposed that, in the dreadful

storm and darkness of that night, he missed his way, and fell into the river. Every search has been made for his body, but in vain. The loss of the gentleman is deeply regretted not only by his family and immediate friends, but by all ranks of people in this city."

And the same Paper for February 12 records that on "Thursday morning [Feb. 7], the body of Solomon Boileau, Esq., was taken out of the river near the Sluice-house. He had been missing many weeks under the cape of his coat his name and place of residence were found written upon a scrap of paper not in the least obliterated."

Mr. Boileau had, in his earlier days, served as Lieutenant in the 76th Foot, and was for many years Cashier of the Bank of Dublin. He had married twice, his first wife, Dorothea Gladwin, of Dublin, bringing him no fewer than 17 children. By his second wife, Miss Slater, of Liverpool, he had no issue. His second son, John Peter Boileau, was grandfather of the present Sir Francis G. M. Boileau, bart., of Ketteringham Park, Norfolk. One of his (Solomon Boileau's) daughters became the wife of Mr. ELLIS JONES, formerly of this city, and their only surviving son was the late Colonel Lestock Boileau Jones, of H.M. Indian Army.

T. HUGHES.

[1320] OUTLYING PORTIONS OF COUNTIES.

[No. 1800.—Sept. 8.]

"CAMERO-BRITON" will find his query answered on referring to the *Quarterly Review* of July last, page 46.

It appears from this very interesting article on Middlesex, that the counties were formed to a great extent according to the manors of the Bishops, or possessions of the Abbeyes; and that the irregularities to which your correspondent refers were due to the accident (so to speak) of these possessions and manors not always being in a ring-fence. It is one of the many evidences that the Church in this country developed in advance of the State.

Malpas.

W. T. KENYON.

[1321] THE HOGG HOUSE, CHESTER.

[No. 1801.—Sept. 8.]

In reply to "H. S. A.," I am enabled to tell him that Hogg House was in UPTON, near Chester. It was included in the "grant" to the GLASEOR family, in the time of Queen Elizabeth.

I append an abridgment from the original Grant, made almost exactly a hundred years ago, by the Rev. Thomas Crane, Vicar of Over, in this county, a local antiquary and scholar of repute:—

"Nov. 30th, 22 Queen Elizabeth [A.D. 1579.] Grant by the Queen, by Letters patent under the Great Seal of England, supported by authority of Parliament, to WILLIAM GLASEOR, Esquire, and to JOHN GLASEOR, Gentleman, of the following Manours and places, all in the County of CHESTER: all the Manour of LEN, otherwise Ley, near Back-

ford in Wirrall, with its privileges and appertences: also the Villages and Hamlets of LEN, WHITBY, and OVER POOLE: also "Le Longe Meadows" in MOSTON or UPTON: also a Messuage or Tenement in BOUGHTON, in the occupation of Alice Hanley, Widow: also a Messuage or Tenement in UPTON called "Hogg House," in the holding of Robert Daye: all which Manours and Premises appertained and belonged to the Monastery of SAINT WARBURG in CHESTER, lately dissolved: (reserving to the Queen, her Heirs and Successors, all tythes in Whitby and Over Poole): to hold to the said William and John Glaseor, their Heirs and Assigns for ever, in Socage and not in Capite: the said William and John Glaseor, their Heirs and Assigns, to pay for ever to the Queen and her Successors the following annual Rent:—For Lee, ten pounds eleven shillings & four pence; for Whitby and Over Poole, thirty four pounds fifteen shillings and four pence; for "Le Longe Meadows," twenty shillings; for the House in Boughton with its appertences, forty eight shillings & sixpence; for the Messuage or Tenement in Upton, called "Hogg House," with its appertences, forty six shillings and ten pence: the said yearly Rent to be paid at the West Gate of the Abbey in Chester, called "Le Abbey Gate," on Michaelmas day, and Lady day, by equal portions."

Mr. Crane adds that the foregoing is abstracted from a Copy of the Original Grant in Latin, taken by himself on the 11th day of November, in the year 1780.

Great Saughall.

W. H. BRADFORD.

SEPTEMBER 29, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Sept. 29.—All Saints' newly rebuilt Church at Marple, near Stockport, consecrated by Bishop G. H. Law	1812
„ 30.—Festival of Music in the nave of Chester Cathedral, Mrs. Billington one of the singers.....	1806
Oct. 1.—Royalist Mayor and Justices of the Peace, at Chester, removed from their offices by the Parliament	1643
„ 2.—Edward Fitton, of Gawsworth, esquire, created a Baronet.....	1617
„ 3.—The "Kingsley Science Medal" awarded and presented to Sir Philip Grey-Egerton, bart., by the Chester Society of Natural Science.....	1879
„ 4.—John Birchenshaw appointed Abbot of Chester.....	1493
„ 5.—The Volunteers reviewed by the Duke of Gloucester and his son Prince William, and a royal salute fired from a ship in the river	1804

J.H.

Original Documents.

[1322] LORD BYRON SUPERSEDED.

DR. KENDRICK'S valuable transcripts from the BRETTON CORRESPONDENCE supply us to-day with a very interesting Letter from the pen of JOHN, LORD BYRON, Commander-in-Chief at Chester for King Charles the First.

His Lordship was a faithful and brave, though not always a successful, general; and many of his brothers fought, some of them indeed bled and died, in the cause of their King. LORD BYRON himself had been almost continually in the saddle from the very commencement of the war; and wherever, in the large district confided to him, there was any fighting to be done, there was he, always in the forefront of the fray. It was scarcely fair therefore, certainly most ungenerous, in either RUPERT or those about him, to discredit the claims and the past services of BYRON. But it is the common lot of humanity, the military sort perhaps more than any other (witness the cold shoulder once given to our own gallant Sir Frederick Roberts!), to be misunderstood and even slighted by those high in authority. Byron was therefore, in his present gloom, only reaping what his ill-luck had sown; but it was none the less harsh, and, as we shall see, difficult for him to endure with any composure.

LIVERPOOL was just at that juncture in the most imminent danger, fluttering alternately between hope and despair; and LORD BYRON, whose inability to help them with his diminished command is very painfully shown by his letter, puts the whole case with force and clearness before PRINCE RUPERT; whose pillow at the time could not have been a soft or comfortable one, so far as we can judge from these interesting records.

BYRON, addressing the Prince, thus writes:—

"S'r,

May it please y'r Highness,

I doubt not but longe ere this Mr. TREVOR hath acquainted y'r Highness with the ill condition these countryes are in; w'ch dayly growes worse and worse, & will shortly bee desperate, if not releevd. REDIL CASTLE [is] now lost (the manner this inclosed letter will declare, w'ch I receaved from an officer there present); & LIVERPOOLE not able to hold out above a fortnight unless releevd with victuall, w'ch is almost impossible to bee donne now, the Rebels beeinge possessed of WIRALL thorough the cowardise & negligence of them who had the guard at BIRKETT WOOD [Birkenhead].

The officers at LIVERPOOLE are desirous to endure all extremities rather than yeeld the Towne, but the souldiers for want of pay grow extreame mutinous, & dayly runn away; so that unless releefe come very speedily, I feare they will bee forced to make the best conditions for themselves they can,

& to yeeld the Towne: w'ch beeinge once in the enimyes hands, CHESTER will be immediately blockt up on all sides, MIDDLETON beeinge now at leasure to come on the welch side.

Y'r Highness knowes how full this Towne [Chester] is, of ill affected and refractory people, & how ill wee shall bee able to resist an enemy without, havinge so stronge a party of treacherous people within: so that, if these countryes bee at all thought considerable, some speedy course must bee taken for the releefe of them; for many who heretofore were thought loyall, upon this success of the Rebels are eyther turned newters, or wholly revolted to them.

No contribution comes in; for want of w'ch the souldiers dayly runn away, & particularly, y'r Highness regiment of foot is much lessened. The Rebels are onely stronge in comparison of our weakness; & I am confident that 3000 good foot, added to the horse yett remaininge heere, with some armes and ammunition, would presently bee able to drive the Rebels into theire garrisons againe, & putt these countryes into a very good condition.

I supposed that, in y'r Highness absence, the sole command of these countryes had bene in mee, as formerly it was, before y'r Highness came into these parts; & that noe orders were to bee obeyed but mine, or sent by any other authority. But I find that now there are independent commissions granted, without any relation at all to mee: in particular, the Governor of CHESTER hath one for these three countryes of Chester, Flint, & Denbigh; so that I stand heere but for a cypher, onely this advantage I have, to bee lyable to the blame of any Errors committed; w'ch is so sadd a condition, that I shall humbly desire y'r Highness, if I bee not worthy of the command I have formerly had, to recall mee from this.

I am confident y'r Highness will doe mee the right to say, I have bene as little guilty of disputes as any man that ever served you, & therefore hope you will not thinke I complaine now, but upon just grounds; neyther doe I at all envy any power y'r Highness hath given WILL. LEGG (who hath ever bene my good frend); but to bee exercised in so ample a manner whilst I am present, so much lessens mee in the esteeme of all men heere, that I can not but resent it, humbly submitinge to y'r Highness better consideration.

I have sent to y'r Highness heere inclosed the insolent summons sent by MELDRAM to LIVERPOOLE: they have drawne all the force they possibly can together upon this designe, & have left Staffordshire & all theire garrisons so naked that, if my L'd of LOUGHBOROUGH would or could doe and thinge, they might easily bee made to repent it. I have sent an expresse to Newark, to try if any thinge can bee drawne from thence; hearinge that S'r ROBERT DALLISON is there with 600 horse & dragoones, & but a burthen to that garrison, w'ch is in so good a condition that they neede no help. I heare by one lately come out of Scotland, that the Irish are very stronge there & marchinge towards

Edenborough: all Westmorland & Comberland (excepting Carlile) are revolted to the Scotts, & have taken the covenant, by the indevors of S'r Richard Grahame, that faithfull servant of the Kings.

I humbly desire to heare from y'r Highness with all possible speed, what will bee donne for releefe of these countryes, w'ch will bee some comfort to those who are ready to faint for want of it. My Brother writt mee word LEVERPOOLE was victualled but for fourteene dayes, of w'ch some are all-ready spent.

I humbly crave y'r Highness pardon for troublinge you thus longe, & rest, S'r,

Y'r Highness most humble
& most obliged servant,

Chester, 8^{br} 7th,
1644."

JOHN BYRON.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[1823] BAXTER ROW, CHESTER.

In reading ORMEROD, vol. i. p. 342 (Helsby's Edit.), I came upon the following in a notice of the Friaries of the city:—

"The warden of the FRIARS MINORS (or GREY FRIARS) and convent, in May, 1403, was WILLIAM LEGGESLEY. On his petition of that date to the Prince of Wales, as Palatine of Chester, he obtained a license for William Tewkesbury, chaplain, to grant to Roger Potter, mayor, in trust for ever, an annual rent of 10s., to be received out of three messuages, situate in BAXTER-ROWE, in Eastgate-street; the warden and convent to perform certain services for the repose of the souls of JOHN CHAMBERLAIN and Agnes his wife, parents of ROBERT CHAMBERLAIN, and for the souls of the said Robert and his heirs. The boundaries of the messuages are set out. [*Recog. Rolls*, 3 and 8 Henry IV., m. 9. (1, 3, 4) d. (1)."]

On referring to THE SHEAF [Vol. 1, p. 226, No. 671], in the names of the "Chester Streets in time of Edward III.," we read, under *Goddstall Lane*:—

"This Goddshall lieth Buried within the Abbey Church in Chester, and he was an Emperoure and a vertuose disposed man in his Lynynge, and his Lane Lyethe betwene the mease som tymes of Robert Chambleyne, and the mease lat in tholdinge of Will'm Humfrey."

JOHN CHAMBERLAIN was Sheriff of the City in 1366, and Mayor in 1379, 1384-5, when he died, but in no list is his successor in office named.

ROBERT, named above, was Sheriff in 1405: and RICHARD POTTER was Mayor also in 1410; and while Sheriff, in 1391, is described as Roger le Potter.

By the conjunction of the two paragraphs we are enabled to identify this Row, known in those days as "Baxter Rowe," with the "Pepper Alley Row" of our

own date; and also to fix upon the position of the residence of two of our old city magnates in Edward the Third's reign.

Ledsham.

R. M.

[1824] DEATH AS AN ADVERTIZING MEDIUM.

Grief had a distinct eye to business when it inserted the following local paragraph in the *Chester Courant* for May 21, 1811:—

"Wednesday week [May 8], Mr. Ripley, landlord of the inn at Ellesmere-port, on the river Mersey. He was generally respected for his political [polite] behaviour to the very numerous guests he was daily in the habit of accommodating, on their passage to and from this city and Liverpool, by that very cheap and pleasant conveyance, the "*Ellesmere Canal Packet*."

Verily a thimble-full of sorrow amidst an avalanche of puff!

L. L.

Queries.

[1825] GWAENYSGOR CHURCH.

Staying for a few days in the neighbourhood of Prestatyn, on the Welsh Coast, a few miles eastward of Rhyl, I chanced to stroll upon the picturesque hills which seem to hug round the southern side of the snug little settlements dotted about here and there, in their sheltered nooks. Reaching the top, where remain the ruins of a small dwelling (and which I afterwards learned was formerly the Telegraph Station for vessels passing along the Anglesey coast), I turned to descend on the opposite side, and, about half way down the hill, came upon the quaint little village of GWAENYSGOR.

Being Sunday, the bell soon told that the hour approaching evening service had come; so, for curiosity, I bent my steps towards the Church and, to my great surprise, found myself in perhaps the *smallest* Church I had ever seen! In the Churchyard were many old tombs, on one of which, where the name had long since been swept away by rain and weather, I read with interest the date 1648. This led me to enter upon some enquiry about the age of this little building; but all I could gather from the villagers was that the Church had belonged for many years to the Romanists, that the present parish register dated back to 1588, and that there had been 12 different clergymen appointed to the living, the present one having been over 8 years in the place, and his predecessor 58!

Can any of your readers tell me more particulars about this little Church, which must have nestled alone in its mountain nook unobserved for centuries, and unfrequented even now by the usual train of curiosity seekers? or of the mound close alongside, which I am told is the site of ancient Roman burial? E. M. T.

[1826] CHESHIRE CENTENARIANS.

[Vol. I., *passim*.]

The following early record of a Cheshire Centenarian may very fitly be accorded a place among those which have already appeared in *THE SHEAF*. I have just met with it in the original Register Book of the Parish of St. OSWALD's, Chester:—

"Harry houghton of songhton on the hill, a man of five score & sixe yeares, buried at churchon heath Chappell the 23 May, 1588."

Supposing "Old Harry" to have been correct in his reckoning, he was born in 1482, a quarter of a century at least before the present tower of the Cathedral was erected. He might very well have remembered too the Agreement taking effect, under which the parishioners of St. OSWALD's (his own native parish) re-acquired possession of their old church, in preference to that of St. NICHOLAS, now the Music Hall. Oddly enough, only within the last three months, and nearly four centuries after that final concord, the parishioners have for the last time parted with their ancient church to the Dean and Chapter, for a valuable consideration made over to them by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

What else "old Harry" may have remembered it is hard to say; but surely he must have heard the big bell toll when the breath left the body of that famous Abbot of St. Werburgh, SIMON RIPLEY, in 1491; and at twelve years old very likely stood gazing in the streets of Chester, as King Henry VII., his Queen, and retinue passed in state into the city.

The *Chester Courant* for Tuesday, April 9, 1811, has the following obituary notice:—

"A few days ago at Huxley, in the parish of Waverton, JOHN WILLIAMS, at the patriarchal age of 107 years. In the early part of his life he was transported to America, but returned before the expiration of his sentence: he continued a dissolute course of life until he arrived at 80 years of age; after which he became a convert to religion, and walked in the paths of virtue till his death."

The Rev. J. WILBRAHAM HILL, Rector of Waverton, who some twenty years ago signalised his long Incumbency by compiling a short History of his Church and Parish, refers therein to the burial of this village patriarch in Waverton churchyard. Mr. HILL has, within the last few days, at my request, examined the Burials Register of his parish, and has generously favoured me with the following extracts referring to this old man and the almost as long-lived sharer of his earthly pilgrimage. There occur amongst the burials for the year 1800 as under:—

"1800. Esther Williams, Huxley, Sept. 11."

And for

"1811. John Williams, Huxley, 105, March 22."

Mr. HILL further sends the following copy of an inscription still remaining on the gravestone over this aged couple:—

"Here lieth the Body of Esther, Wife of John Williams, of Huxley, who died in August 1, 1800, aged 95.

Also the said John Williams, late of Huxley, who died March 22'd 1811, aged 105."

These several entries, as will be seen on comparing them, do not quite run on all-fours; but the errors in no material degree affect the question at issue, viz.: the right of JOHN WILLIAMS to the title of a Centenarian. Mr. HILL, in his recent letter to me, notices this strange divergence, and says:—

"It is singular that the gravestone states Esther the wife to have died Aug. 1, and the Register that she was buried Sept. 11! One or the other, I should think, must be wrong, as the relatives would never dream of keeping the remains upwards of 40 day before interment.

Then again, it is equally strange that the Stone should state the husband, John Williams, to have died March 22nd, and the Register that he was buried *the same day*! Probably the then Incumbent, who I observe was in many instances not careful in registering, may have entered the old man's death instead of his burial."

T. HUGHES.

Replies.

[1827] FLINT OLD CHURCH.

[Nos. 1167, 1229, 1255.—June 2, July 14, Aug. 4.]

The Sir John Salusbury of Lleweny, referred to by "W. B. L.," as having taken to wife JANE MIDDLETON of Chester, was buried in the old church of WHIT-CHURCH by Denbigh, under an altar tomb erected to his memory, and by intention to her own, by his widow. The monument stands in the east end of the south aisle; and the inscription, which runs round the four sides of the slab containing the sculptured effigies, reads as follows in Old English letters:—

"Here lieth the bodies of Sir John Salusbury of Lleweny || in [t]he Countie of Be'ghigh, Knight, who Deceased the of March, in the yere of our lord God, 1578, and Dame || Jane his wief, daughter and Co heire to David Middleton || esquier, Alderma' of Westchester, w'ch Jane in a's 1588, at her Charges fully Erected this tombe or Monument, & with the of in a's 15."

On this tomb lie figures of a man in armour, his head supported by a helmet, which has on it a crest,—"*a Saracen's head proper, wreathed vert and or*;" also of a female, dressed in the costume of the time.

On the south face of the tomb are figures of the same man and female; with 7 male figures also in armour, probably their 7 sons, the one next the female being in

armour, painted black like that of the principal figure. In the centre of this side is also a shield of arms,—Salisbury, "gules, a lion rampant between three crescents argent,"—impaling Middleton, "sable (or azure), on a bend vert, 3 wolves' heads erased argent, a roundle gules for difference,"—with motto round, "Vertue liueth after death."

On the east face of this tomb is a large shield,— "Quarterly, 1, Salisbury; 2, Marshudd; 3, "sable, on a bend argent, three arrows of the first, on a canton argent, a bugle-horn of the field;" 4, "argent, 3 roses palewise gules;" 5, "sable, a lion rampant, or;" 6, Edwin of Tegengle; 7, "gules, 3 lions palewise regardant, or;" 8, "4 lions quarterly, argent and sable alternately." On the sinister half of shield,— 1, Middleton; 2, "vert, a chevron between 3 wolves' heads argent;" 3, "gules, on a bend or, three lions rampant sable;" 4, "argent, three choughs, 2 and 1, sable, beaked and clawed gules." Around this shield is the motto, all in Old English letters, "ƿæ thegm that feare ƿod all [þings] are foroght to the best."

On the north side, two female figures, and two figures of babies swathed; and in the centre a shield,—Salisbury and Middleton, with motto round, in Old English, "in ƿod is sur hope," and in French, all in Roman capitals, "EN DIEU IE ESPOIERE."

On the western face, dexter side,—the Middleton arms, with motto round, all in small Old English letters, "to ƿod all unlye giue the prayse." On the sinister side,—the Salisbury arms, with motto, all in Roman capitals, "POST FVNEBA VIETVS VIVIT."

FF.

[We have lately ourselves visited this old temple at WHITCHURCH, the mother church of the quaint town of DENBIGH; and have been much charmed with the air of antiquity pervading its interior,—its Salisbury monuments and altar tomb, and the numerous funeral escutcheons hanging in picturesque disorder on its walls. No doubt the day will come when the "restorer" will appear on the scene, and with itching fingers seek to renovate or possibly rebuild the old church. But if so, let him lay gentle hands on these ancient relics; let him tenderly remove and preserve them from injury; and above all, let him see that they are religiously restored to the walls where their dead owners lovingly placed them; for, as in landed property, so with these church monuments, the sacred anathema still holds equally good as of old,— "Cursed is he that removeth his neighbour's landmark"]

EDITOR.]

[1828] ROUNDHEAD PARSONS AT CHESTER.

[Nos. 1186, 1209, 1238.—June 16, 30, July 21.]

I am inclined to think that the PETER LEIGH, Preacher at NANTWICH, 1627-32, was the same person who acted as Minister of St. Oswald's and St. JOHN'S

Parishes, Chester, during the Interregnum. In the Register Book of St. Oswald's, (for the permission to search which I am indebted to the courtesy of the Vicar, the Rev. W. H. L. Cogswell), I find the following interesting record of his Marriage, celebrated before a local Justice of the Peace, in presence of three of his brother Ministers resident in the vicinity:—

"Memor'dm. that an intenc'on of Mariage agreed vpon betweene Mr. PETER LEIGH, Minister of Oswald's in Chester, and Mrs. MARIE DAVIES of the same parish of Oswald's, was published three severall Lords days in the s'd parish church of Oswald's; that is, the twelfth, the Nineteenth, and the six and twentieth of March in the years of our Lord 1653 and 1654, according to an Act of the Late Parliam't intituled 'an Act touching Mariage & ye Registering thereof:' a Certificate thereof being brought by the s'd parties aboue married vnto the Wor'll RICHARD LECESTER Esqr' Ald'rm' & Justice of Peace within the Cittie of Chester, hee p'mitted them to solemnize ther s'd Mariage before him, in maner & forme as is p'scribed in the s'd Act; which being p'formed accordingly by both the s'd p'ties, the afforesaid Justice declared them from thence forth to bee Husband & Wife, in p'sence of Mr. Edward Bold, Minister of Hanarden, Mr. William Peartree, Minister of Maries in Chester, & Mr. Robert [Barlow.] Minister of Moberley, and diuers other credable Witnesses present at the said marriage, the 28th of March in the s'd yeare 1654."

The Marriage of PETER LEIGH was celebrated just nine months after his friend HENRY NEWCOME, of Tattenhall, records in his *Autobiography*, that he preached for him "at the great church of Chester;" and if he were the same person referred to by our friend, Mr. J. E. BAILEY, as living at KNUTSFORD in 1686, he must have been then between 80 and 90 years of age.

T. HUGHES.

OCTOBER 6, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Oct. 8.—Three Witches, after being hung, buried by the Castle Ditch, Chester.....	1656
" 9.—Major-General Thomas Harrison tried for participating in the death of King Charles I.....	1660
" 10.—Smith and Clark executed at Chester, and buried in St. Martin's churchyard	1810
" 11.—Sir Peter Leycester, the Cheshire historian, died at Nether Tabley	1673
" 12.—Edward Vith., Royal Earl of Chester, born	1537
	J. H.

Original Documents.

[1829] DEN LANE, CHESTER.

This old way from the BARS Gateway and BOUGHTON to the River Dee, being a bye-path not much frequented in early Stuart Days, had been, as it would appear from the following ASSEMBLY ORDER, much encroached upon by adjoining owners, and had become so "unpassable," as the local scribe of that day puts it, that decency at length called out for immediate redress. Accordingly,

"AT AN ASSEMBLY holden in the Com'on Hall of Pleas within the Citie of Chester, vpon friday the seaventeenth day of Julie, 1612, Annoq' regni d'ni n'ri Jacobi, Dei &c. Decimo, &c. Coram Joh'e Ratcliffe Maiore Civitatis predicta.

A lane neere Mr. David Dymocks without the Barres, to be surveyed and amended.

AT WHICH Assemblie informac'on was given that a Certaine Lane neare or adioyninge vnto the back-side of the Dwellings house of Mr. David Dymocke, Alderman, by reason of Certaine encrochmentes and fillinge vpp of the Ditches of the saide Lane, is made in effecte vnpassable with anie Cartes or Cariages, and therevpon motion made for some speedie reformat'ion and redresse in that behalfe.

Vpon due and deliberate Considerac'on whereof, it is by the full likinge, agreement, and Consent of this whole Assemblie ordered that a speedie survey and viewe of the said lane shalbe hadd and taken; to which purpose Mr. William Aldersey Th'elder, Alderman, Mr. William Gamull, Ald', the said Mr. David Dymocke, Henry Birkenhead, Esquicr, Mr. Edward Bathoe, Mr. John Lea, and Mr. Thomas Whitbie, are intreated to haue and take a Care in the viewe and reformat'ion thereof; to whose Discretions the same is wholie by this Assemblie referred. And therefore by the same Assemblie the said Mr. William Aldersey, Mr. William Gamull, Mr. David Dymocke, Mr. Henry Birkenhead, Mr. Edward Bathoe, Mr. John Lea, and Mr. Thomas Whitbie, or anie foure or more of them, are nominated, Assigned, or appointed to be Surveyors and overseers of the saide worke: vnto whome theire is by the same Assemblie full power and authoritie given and graunted, by all good and lawfull meanes to Cause the Ditche of the said Lane, or soe much thereof as shall seeme needefull by the said surveyors, or anie foure or more of them, to be cleansed, scoured, and formed; and that all Encrochmentes made vpon the said lane, vpon due proof and view thereof, shall and maie by the Direct'ion of the said surveyors or any foure or more of them be reformed, and soe Consequentlie the said lane by there good endeavours made passable with Cartes and Cariages for the vse, ease, and benefit of his Ma'ties Subiectes."

Alderman DAVID DYMMOCKE who, at the date of the above Order, resided at the north-west corner of DEN LANE, was the same who, in 1608, obtained licence from the Corporation to open a side arch for foot passengers in the BARS GATEWAY, where previously had been only a large central arch for carriages, to the great inconvenience of the foot traffic. He was a man of good family long previously settled in the neighbouring counties of Flint and Denbigh.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1830] CHESTER ALE IN IRELAND, 1691.

This Ale seems to have been much esteemed in Ireland at the above date. In a letter from Sir PATRICK DUN, the founder of one of the first Hospitals in Dublin, to General Ginkles, Secretary of War, in the camp at Connacht (Dun being at the time Physician to the Army), he says:—

"Six on Monday last, I sent from Dublin a box containing two dozen bottles of the best claret, and two dozen bottles of *Chester Ale*.

At the same time I sent a lesser box, in which there is dozen and a half of potted Chickens in an earthen Pot; and in another pot foure green geese. This is the physio I advise you to take; I hope it will not be nauseous or disagreeable to your stomach."—Gilbert's *History of Dublin*.

WILLIAM MONK GIBBON, LL.D.

Dublin.

[1831] A MATRIMONIAL SQUABBLE.

Two little hand-bills, pasted into an old scrap-book now before me, are perhaps the only remaining trace of a domestic difficulty which seventy-five years ago, formed food for gossip in the adjoining township of HOOLE. The charge and the rejoinder follow promptly on each other.

"Whereas SIDNEY HEWITT, my Wife, on the 16th day of March last, in my absence from home, voluntarily and without any just or reasonable cause, eloped from my house, and she hath ever since continued absent therefrom,

This, therefore, is to give Notice,

To the tradesmen of Chester in particular, and to the public at large, not to give my said Wife any trust or credit whatsoever, as I certainly shall not pay any debt which she shall or may hereafter contract; nor do I hold myself answerable or accountable for any debts which she may have already incurred since the time of her elopement aforesaid. Given under my hand this 3d day of April, 1805.

THOMAS HEWITT.

Hcole-House, near Chester.

"Whereas THOMAS HEWITT, my Husband, put out Hand-bills last night to say, I absconded without a Cause: I, SIDNEY HEWITT, post this to certify that I absconded to save my Life, which he has threatened from Time to Time. As for the Debts he speaks of, I have not incurred any but those that are unavoidable; and I believe the Trades-people of Chester will do me the Justice to say that I never did otherwise.

SIDNEY HEWITT."

The axiom as to the washing of dirty linen away from home seems not to have been regarded much at Hooles at the beginning of this century! The parties concerned were persons of some consideration, at the date of this matrimonial dispute and separation.

H. S. A.

Queries.

[1332] EDWARD BUTTON OF CHESTER.

In the list of Mayors and Sheriffs of the city, as given in *Ormerod, Hanshall, Hemingway, &c.*, under the year 1600, one EDWARD BUTTON is recorded as Sheriff; and the same person occurs as Mayor of Chester in 1616. Are not these entries really intended for EDWARD DUTTON, who served the mayoralty in 1604?

Ledsbam.

R. M.

[1333] BACHE, AND BUTTER-BACHE.

These, as your readers know, are places some little distance from each other, yet both of them on the outskirts of CHESTER. What do their names primarily signify, and are those names at all correspondent with their geographical position? Place-names usually meant something in ancient days,—I wish we could always say so now!

A WOODMAN.

[1334] EARL GROSVENOR AND ELWES THE MISER.

In an amusing and clever article on sporting matters in "*Society*" for September 17 of this present year, I find the following anent Doncaster Races of perhaps a century ago:—

"Stirring memories the sight of the old Moor recalls. Why, the sport here warmed even the heart of the miser ELWES into liberality: in a fit of generosity at Doncaster he lent the old EARL GROSVENOR 3000 guineas, and then nearly broke his own neck in trying to cheat a turnpike for the sake of twopence on his way home!"

What were the circumstances under which Lord Grosvenor drew that bag-full of money from the notorious old miser?

G. T.

Replies.

[1335] CHESHIRE FOLK-LORE.

[No. 113.—June 26, 1878.]

The ex-M.P. to whom your correspondent "G. T." refers must have been, if I may offer the suggestion, a native of the Principality, as the folk-lore with reference to the ladder is one of the many popular superstitions which have their rise in that part of the kingdom. Many a time have I been told by servants, fresh from the rural parts of Wales, that, if I "walked under a ladder," I should be a certain prey to the executioner; and as often have I persistently passed beneath to shew my unbelief in the prophecy.

As to the "curing of the warts," I think this was only a little ruse of the Master, to give his pupil an idea that he was a magician and could charm them away. The warts were doubtless removed by the application of raw meat, to which the pantomime was but a useless accessory.

M. U. S.

[1336] THE DARK ENTRY, CHESTER.

[No. 788.—August 20, 1879.]

Surely the site of the DARK ENTRY cannot have quite grown out of local recollection! Not that it is likely to be found marked on any printed plan of the city: it was of late years too "dark" and too insignificant for that, close as it notwithstanding was to Chester's most busy thoroughfare.

This Entry ran slightly to the westward of, and at the same time parallel with, ST. WERBURGH-STREET, which I take to be quite a modern passage in comparison with its now obliterated neighbour. From the circumstance indeed that it formed, through its entire length, the boundary of the parishes of St. Peter's and St. Oswald's, it was in all probability an open footpath from Eastgate Street up to the mother church of the city, at a remote period when the present "Worbur's Lane," as old folks still call it, had no existence. The site of the *Dark Entry* is now wholly covered by the Bank of "Parr Brothers Limited," and by the new shops on the west side of St. Werburgh Street.

At the upper end of the passage, which had been, beyond all remembrance, covered in like a sewer, and was very nearly as savoury, there were two good houses,—one, in the days of my childhood, a middle-class girls' seminary, and the other a well-to-do pawnbroker's. In the latter house, somewhere about thirty years ago, resided an old lady, a Miss Sayers, who earlier in life had conducted the school of which I have spoken, but had then quite got past all work. On the day of her death, by one of those accidents common to old age, she fell forward into the fireplace while her servant was absent, and her clothes instantly caught fire. The aged creature dragged herself, affrighted, to the door, and so into the DARK ENTRY, where the

through draught added fury to the flames, from the effects of which she in a short time died. This is beyond doubt, I think, the circumstances to which our correspondent "LUCY D. T." refers in her Query.

T. HUGHES.

[1337] ST. BRIDGET'S OLD CHURCH, CHESTER.

[No. 1308.—Sept. 15.]

In the last *Courant* I notice an enquiry relative to the removal of ST. BRIDE'S CHURCH, then known emphatically as one of the "Two Churches" in central Bridge-street.

The Act of Parliament which fixed that onerous and intolerable tax of the "Dee Bridge Tolls" on the City was the occasion which rendered necessary the taking down of ST. BRIDE'S CHURCH, and fixing the new one on its present site. During the time of its being removed, I was present at the funeral of the late MR. MELLOR, the proprietor of the Shot Tower then in Commonhall-street. I rather think from the dust and dilapidation then noticed in the old Church, that this would be the last funeral service held in it. The very delicate and difficult work of removing the bodies interred in the Church was done at night, darkness lending its aid to obscure the unwelcome and offensive operation.

And now as to your question, the removal of the stone-work and windows. This was done with the very characteristic quality which usually marks our north-country friends, in this instance a body of Scotch religionists designated Sandemanian Baptists whose minister was a Rev. Mr. Sim. The stones and windows of ST. BRIDE'S were purchased by this far seeing body for an old song, and removed to Pepper-street, to the new Chapel they were then erecting, and were built in there externally, as they now remain. I cannot say, that, like Solomon's temple, they were noiselessly fitted without hammer; but there was no doubt a great saving in labour, by the stones of the Church being adapted and suited to the construction of this Presbyterian sanctuary. The chapel has now quite lately been secularized as a "School of Art."

I was present at its early opening, and heard that eminent minister, Dr. Wardlaw of Glasgow, preach in it; and also, about the year 1842, when Dr. Duncan opened it for the "Free Church of Scotland": that interest has of late been removed to the elegant building for the same society in Newgate-street, and the Pepper-street Congregation has been again transferred to the Park Road, leading to the Grosvenor Park.

Thus, as time ceaselessly moves on, changes take place; and although there may be "diversities of operation" it is charitably hoped that one great good is promoted, or at least attempted, by all.

MATTHEW HARRISON.

Castle-street.

[138]

ARCHDEACON ROGERS.

[Nos. 682, 986.—June 4, 1879, Jan. 14, 1880.]

This dignitary, who died in 1595, was, according to Le Neve's list, the fourth Archdeacon of Chester; and he succeeded Robert Percival, deprived in 1559. There is perhaps an Archdeacon missing, as Canon Raines places the appointment of Rogers in the year 1580 (*Not. Cest.*, i. 5); on which occasion the presentation was in the hands of the Earl of Leicester, that notorious Court favourite having received a grant of it from Bishop CHADDERTON (*Ibid.* p. 20). ROBERT ROGERS was also a Prebendary in the same Cathedral, for he was collated to the 6th Stall, 25th Nov., 1580, and he was succeeded on his death by Nathaniel Dod (collated 17th January, 1595-6). The date of ROGERS's decease is thus derived from these entries (*Le Neve*, iii. 266, 269-70); and the dates on his widow's monument, copied in the communication of Mr. LEYFIELD, are in accord with it. Canon Raines states that he died at GAWSWORTH, of which he was Vicar, in 1595. Cf. *Chester's Triumph*, 1610, ed. by Rev. T. Corser, p. 9; and Ormerod's *Hist.*, ed. Helsby, vol. i., pp. 115, 271; and Earwaker's *East Cheshire*, vol. ii.

Canon Raines, following Bale, says: "It is not improbable ROGERS was one of the ten children of John Rogers, who was [the editor of Matthew's Bible, and] the first Protestant martyr in 1555, and a native of Lancashire." But the name of *Robert Rogers* does not occur in COL. CHESTER's exhaustive monograph on the martyr and his family, and the same careful antiquary inclines to the opinion that *John Rogers* was born at Deritend, at that time a suburb of Birmingham.

Copies of the Archdeacon's MSS. are in the Harleian papers in the British Museum. The second article of MS. No. 1944, a book in 4to, is thus described:

"A Breuarye of some few Collections of the Cittie of Chester, gathered out of some fewe Writers (by Mr. Robert Rogers); and here sett downe by Mr. David Rogers, his son: A.D. 1609. This Treatise is continued by the said David and others to the year 1652."

Harl: MS. No. 1948 is as follows (*Catal.* 357):—

"A Paper Book in 4to. written by the hand of Mr. David Rogers; wherein are contained—

1. The Charter of the Cittie of Chester; being the most principall Charter graunted by King Henry the Seventh. In English. Imperfect at the end.

2. A Breuarye of some Collections of the most aunchant and famous Cittie of Chester; collected by the Reuerend Mr. Robert Rogers; and reduced into eleven Chapters, by his son David."

A fuller description of these MSS. is to be found in the appendix to the *Fourth Report of the Historical MSS. Commission*, page 416, where the collection of G. F. WILBRAHAM, Esq., of Delamere House, co. Chester, is described. That gentleman owns a copy of the Chester Breviary containing 109 leaves. It had a

curious history. It was bought of a stroller, in the shop of Mr. John Walmesley of Wigan, who had brought it in the town with 10 or 12 other old books for 13s. It had been refused by Mr. Whitehead the curate in whose hands it had been. There is another copy of 123 leaves in the collection of REGINALD CHOLMONDELEY, Esq., of Condovery Hall, Shropshire, "written anew by his [Robert Rogers's] son, D.R., a well-wisher to that anohant Cittie" (*Fifth Report Hist. MSS. Comm.* page 338; another copy imperfect, p. 339). The description of Chester by "Mr. Rogers" is quoted by Webb in his *Vale Royal*, folio, page 20, and on the corresponding place in Ormerod.

The exordium of ROBERT ROGERS's will, dated 17th June, 1580, which is couched in characteristic terms, is given in *Not. Cest.*, i., 5. The testator does not specify any place of burial, but in the spirit of Sir Humphrey Gilbert, his contemporary, who told his crew that they were as near Heaven at sea as on land, the reverent Archdeacon, giving directions for his interment, interjects the title of the 24th Psalm therein, as if it mattered not where his remains found their last resting place:—

"I refuse myselfe and all the helpe of man, and I looke for noe other succour but to be saved by the merits of Jesus, the sonn of God Apocalypsee; and I bequeath my flesh and bones, that is to say my bodye, to be buried in the Earth (*Domini est terra*) with decent buriall X'n like, without all pomp or superstition, in full and perfect hope of ye Resurrection."

This remarkable will, contained in Harl. MS. 2087 (fo. 320), was one of a few particular documents in that volume which attracted the notice of Mr. Wanley, who thus described it:—

"The Will of Robert Rogers, Arch-deacon of Chester. Wherein (after setting forth his most assured Confidence & Beelefe, that all the Sinnes he had committed in this wicked World were forgiven) he bequeaths (after payment of his Debts and Funeral Expences) all his Goods movable & unmovable, Money, Plate, Jewells, Ornaments, Leases, Tacks, Household Stuffe, Bookes, Cattell, Corne, Debts, &c., to his Wife. Forbidding his Children, Friends, &c., to make any Claime to them, to molest or trouble her. And if any should move suit or molest her, his Will was that his Goods should be spent in that cause."

JOHN E. BAILEY.

Stretford, near Manchester.

[1339] HENRY HARDWARE.

[No. 1098.—April 7.]

The rubbing from the brass tablet in TARVIN Church, sent by M. A. T., is that of HENRY HARDWARE, the second son of William Elcocke, *alias* Hardware, by his wife Alice, daughter of John second son of Sir John Ratcliffe, of Ordsall, *knt.* He was Sheriff of CHESTER in 1533, and Mayor in 1559, and 1575.

From the pedigree we find him described as of the PEELE in Little Mouldsworth, and of Watergate-street, in the City of Chester. He married in 1560, ANN daughter and finally co-heiress of HENRY GEE, Sheriff of Chester in 1527, and Mayor in 1533-1539, who was buried in Trinity Church, Chester, 1545. By her he had 13 children, of whom HENRY, his son and heir, born in 1561, was Mayor of Chester in 1599, but never appears to have been Sheriff; and his surviving son JOHN was the vendor of the Peele estates. Of Henry Hardware's daughters, JANE married Thomas Harbottle, Sheriff of Chester city in 1588; ELIZABETH married first, Alderman John Cowper of Chester, and secondly, John Bruen of Stapleford, and was buried at Tarvin, January 9, 1596; ELEANOR married GERRARD MASSEY, D.D., rector of Wigan, who was appointed by James I. Bishop of Chester, but who died before consecration; and MARGARET became the wife of EDWARD DUTTON, Mayor of Chester in 1604.

One of the descendants, Katherine Hardware, born in 1664, became the wife of MATTHEW HENRY, son and heir of PHILIP HENRY of Broad Oak, Flintshire; she died in 1689. John Hardware, who died in 1661, was also buried in Tarvin Church.

The Hardwares were likewise possessed of lands at Bromborough, Norley by Frodsham, and of a property which was called the "flookersbrooke crofts," near the present Railway Station at Chester.

Ledham.

B. M.

OCTOBER 13, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- | | |
|---|------|
| Oct. 13.—Faculty to erect an Organ in Mottram-in-Longendale Parish Church, Cheshire, decreed by Bishop George H. Law..... | 1820 |
| „ 14.—Order of Assembly issued to remove the Common Hall of Pleas to the newly-built Exchange, Chester..... | 1696 |
| „ 15.—Beeston Castle, then a royalist fortress, taken by Sir William Brereton for Parliament | 1635 |
| „ 16.—The Princess Victoria and her Mother, the Duchess of Kent, visited Chester from Eaton Hall, and opened the Grosvenor Bridge | 1832 |
| „ 18.—St. Peter's Church, Chester, first lighted with gas | 1818 |
| „ 19.—Chester illuminated in honor of Admiral Duncan's Victory | 1797 |

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1840] THE LEGHS OF LYME, AND
NORTHOP TITHES.

The two Letters printed to-day are taken from a packet of Original Papers formerly preserved at GWYSANEY, co. Flint, the ancient seat of the DAVIES (now Davies-Cooke) family. The Letters had fallen, by purchase from a London bookseller, into the hands of Mr. E. BREKESE, of Portmadoc, who recently contributed a few of them to the columns of THE SHEAF. Their publication there has led, by the courteous consideration of the then owner, to their restitution to the present head of the house of GWYSANEY, Mr. PHILIP B. DAVIES-COOKE, by whom we know they will be hereafter jealously guarded as precious heir-looms.

Mr. Davies-Cooke sends us from his recent acquisition the following transcripts, appending at the end a few explanatory remarks of his own.

EDITOR.

"Good Cosen DAVIS

lett mee intreate you to doe mee and my Brother the favor to take the accounte of the Sequestrators for NORTHOP tithes: I doe desyre you that you will doe it as soone as conveniently you can: my cosen BOUTHE is joyned with you in the commision for my Brother, & S^r ROGER MOSTEN is owne [one] for his adversary, & I knowe not who the other is.

The reason I importune you to doe it with all convenient speede is, because, if they shall refuse to accounte, wee may att the beeginninge of the next tearme have an attachement agaynst them: & if it bee in my power any way to doe you service, you shall as freely commande mee as I am att this time bounde to trouble you, & see with the remembrance of my best respects, & service unto you, I rest

London Your Kinseman

May 25th & Servante

1626.

FRANCIS LEIGH.

To his very loving kinseman Robert Davis, Esq., these bee d'd'.

A second Letter is to the following effect:—

"To the right w'll Mr. Robt.

Davis at Guisane his
house, these bee &c.

(On Cover)

"If you sende ye box to mee, my house in Lanc: that I shall bee at, w'oh I have named to you w'thin Haydocke, is but xvij myles from Chester and w'thin foure myles of Warrington."

"Brother Ro't

I have detained yo'r brothers boy till now that I am goeing from home into Lanc: and am in hope that his M'r is neere cominge home by this tyme, and

I have sent him his inclosed letter w'oh I pray you keepe and give him at his cominge home. If you doe not expect him soone, but heare somewhat from him, I pray you sende the boy to mee again into Lanc're to HAYDOCKE neere Winwicke, and wryte to mee what you heare of him.

One of my servants received a letter from Dublin, wherein hee was wished, by y'r brothers appoyntm't, to tell mee that hee aryved safely there and purposed to hould his tyme of cominge home that hee aimed at when hee left mee.

And so w'th my very lovinge remembrance to your selfe and my good sister yo'r bedfellowe, I leave you to God's mercifull p'teoc'on, and rest,

Yo'r loving Brother

Lyme, June 29th, & assured frend

1629.

F. LEIGH."

The ROBERT DAVIES of Gwysaney to whom these letters were written must, by their date, have been Robert Davies, who was bapt. in St. John's Church, CHESTER, 29 July, 1581; and who married ANNE, only daughter and heir of JOHN HAYNES, Esqr. co. Salop. Receiver to Queen Elizabeth of her revenues in Wales, He died 27 January, 1633.

I am unaware that he married twice, therefore cannot account for the term used by F. Leigh of "Brother Ro't." Robert's Brother alluded to in the letter would be Col. THOS. DAVIES probably; but there was a John, as also three half brothers, Luke, Mark, Matthew, who were alive in 1632.

Owston Hall.

PHILIP B. DAVIES-COOKE.

[1841] WHITCHURCH, NEAR DENBIGH.

In the North-East corner of the South aisle of this old Church, on a handsome marble monument, is the following inscription:—

"In the Vault Adjoyning to this monument (being the Burying place of the Ancient Family of the SALUSBURYES of LLEWENT descended from the House of BAVARIA, as appears by their Pedigree) Lyes interred HESTER Lady COTTON Daughter of S^r THOMAS SALUSBURY of yesame, Bart The loving and much Beloved wife of S^r ROBERT COTTON of COMBERMERE in ye County of CHESTER,

[Bart.

SHE changed this life for a better on ye 7th day o

[Oo'r, 1710,

Aged 73, Having Brought Her Husband five sons

[& eleven

Daughters, from whom she lived to see above a

[Hundred of Her own

offspring. She became Heiress to the estate of Her

[Ancestors

by the decease of Her Brother S^r JOHN SALUSBURY,

[Bart.

who died without issue An'o 1694.

S^r ROBERT as a Testimony of His Affection to His

[Dear

Spouse; ordered by his last will & Testament that

[He should

be buried (separate from His own Ancestors) in this
[Vault,
Near to the Body of his said wife, where he was
[accordingly
interred January the 12, An'o 1712, aged 81.
He was a Gentleman of Great Hospitality, a Loving
Husband, a Tender Father, a True Friend, & a kind
[Master,
and was so well Beloved in His country that He
[served it
for 32 years in Parliament without Interruption.
There also lyes two of their children, (viz.) John,
a young gentleman of great Hopes and a Daughter
named Jane.
S'r ROBERT is Succeeded in Honour and Estate
by His 4th son, Sir THOMAS who married Philadelphia
sole Daughter and Heiress of His Excellence S'r
[THOMAS
LYNCH K't. a Person Remarkable for his Valour and
[Loyalty
Having been three times Governour and Capt'n
[Generall of
JAMAICA, in which Government He died, leaving His
[Daught'r
A Vast Fortune Honestly Gotten, well Bestowed, and
Prudently manag'd.
This Lady hath already Brought forth a numerous
And Hopeful issue to preserve the memory of their
worthy Progenitors."
Below, on an attached tablet, there is added as
follows:—

"This Monument is erected by the
Piety and at the charge of S'r THOMAS
In dutyfull memory of His Father and Mother.
Time will these letters wear away
And Marble moulder as 'twere clay;
Yet nothing shall annoy the just,
Their virtues Flourish in the Dust,
Secure from Age or Moth or Rust.
1715."

FF.

Notes.

[1842] ST. WERBURGH'S CHURCH, DUBLIN.

THE CHESHIRE SHEAF is the proper depository for the following curious extract from our Dublin annals. It shews the natural affection that clings round a familiar name in the hearts of men long absent from their native home.

It is stated in GILBERT'S *History of the City of Dublin*, vol. i., p. 27, that

"WERBURGH-STREET in that city received its name from a church which appears to have been erected there shortly after the Anglo-Norman settlement, and dedicated to St. WERBURGH, patron of CHESTER, to which her shrine, which now forms the Bishop's throne in that town was brought in the year 875."

At page 80 of the same *History* it is stated that

"A meeting of the natives of CHESTER, residents in DUBLIN, was held in St. WERBURGH'S Church in 1671, as appears from "a Sermon preach't before the Right Honorable the Lord Mayor of the City of Dublin and the rest of the Society of the City and county Palatine of CHESTER, and of the county Palatine of Cheshire, at a publick meeting of the natives of that city and county, in the Pariah Church of St. WERBURGH'S, the 23 of November, 1671, by SAMUEL HINDE, D.D., one of his Majestie's chaplains."

This sermon is dedicated by the preacher

"To the Right Honourable JOHN TOTTY, Lord Mayor of Dublin, and the rest of his worthy friends and countrymen of that ancient city, the city and county palatine of CHESHIRE."

The author styles SIR JOHN TOTTY and himself as both natives of Cheshire, and says that the sermon was preached at the

"first and last public convention in the pariah church of St. Werburgh's, in Dublin."

A foot-note, appended to this interesting story, states that

"the stewards for the managing of this our Cheshire meeting were Will. Billington and Mr. Henry Ashton."

I may remark that the name of TOTTY has been handed down with us here to a much later time as connected with CHESHIRE. A WILLIAM TOTTY commanded the packet vessel "The Trevor of Chester," in 1775; and in 1776 "The Murray of Chester," also a packet, was commanded by a Captain TOTTY, but whether the same person I know not.

Dublin. WILLIAM MONK GIBBON, LL.D.

[1848] THE JUSTICESHIP OF CHESTER—AN ASPIRANT.

There is no doubt that in former times, Public Offices, like kissing, went very much "by favour."

Amongst the WARBURTON Papers in the possession of MR. LEE, of Redbrook, is an original draft of a letter written by one who, no doubt, had some reasonable pretension to the Justiceship. It does not appear to whom it was addressed, nor does the writer add his name.

It is as follows:—

"Trentham, Sep. 25, 1756

My Lord,—

Being upon a visit to LORD GOWER I have just heard the surprizing melancholy (sic) news of the death of Mr. TALBOT, our second Justice of CHESTER. I hope that your Lordship will not esteem me too presumptuous in desiring the favour of your recommendation to his Majesty of me to fill up that vacancy. It has been often hinted to me in Mr. TALBOT'S life time that a resignation might thus have been obtained in my favour, but at that time I declined hearkening to any overtures of that

kind, but upon this vacancy am now desirous of that office.

I shall not think of mentioning this affair to any other person but your Lordship, only have just signified to LORD GOWSE my intention of writing this letter, which he is pleased to approve of.

I am, &c."

Tushingham Hall.

B. LL. V.

Queries.

[1344] OLD FONTS AT DORFOLD HALL.

A garden party lately held at the above place gave me, and many others, a chance of seeing the old Hall and its well wooded grounds. On the lawn are two interesting Fountains; one of these a hasty examination convinced me to be of Norman or semi-Norman work. The bowl was circular, and ornamented with rude figures and devices. I am sorry I could not then sketch or take further notes of either of these relics.

Can any of THE SHEAF's gleaners in that neighbourhood give particulars of these Fountains, and say or suggest from which Churches they came?

It is usually said that for the scarcity of these old fountains, monumental brasses, and the like, we are indebted to the destroying age of the Civil War, and the broad ideas of the Puritans; but, methinks, this is not always the case.

J. H.

[1345] PARISH LIBRARIES.

In Mr. Earwaker's serial work called "Gleanings, Archaeological and Historical, relating to Lancashire and Cheshire," there is an interesting account of a Library at Halton, near Runcorn, endowed by Sir John Cheshyre in 1773, for the benefit of "the Curate of Halton, the room to be separated to and for the use and service of study." I am told that in Essex, and other counties, there are similar Libraries endowed by individuals for the use of the Clergyman of the Parish. Are there any others known in the diocese of Chester?

Sir John Cheshyre died in 1738, and is buried in Runcorn Church. On his tomb are these two characteristic lines from Pope—

'A wit's a feather, and a chief's a rod,
An honest man's the noblest work of God.'

Newton.

H.

[1346] ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

This town and Newcastle-under-Lyne, situate on the borders, one of them, of Cheshire and Lancashire, the other, of Cheshire and Staffordshire, are sometimes described as "under-lyne," and, at others, "under Lyne." Which is the correct denomination,—Lyne, Linc, or Lym? And what peculiarity, topographically or otherwise, is it supposed to mark?

L. L.

[1347] POOL THE SEQUESTERATOR.

In the First Volume of THE SHEAF, at page 280 (No. 789), there is a quotation of DR. BRUSHFIELD's from "The Newes" of August 18th, 1663, that on the previous Monday "one Pool (formerly a Sequesterator), for Seditious words, was adjudged to the Pillory of Chester, and fined 100£ to the King." Who was this unfortunate demagogue who thus lost his money, if not also his ears?

Stockport.

MARY O. LATREY.

Replies.

[1348] LOYAL RUNCORN VOLUNTEERS.

[No. 461.—Jan. 8, 1879.]

THE RUNCORN VOLUNTEER Colours, which your correspondent "C. THORNTON" enquires about as above, had a place of honour assigned to them in the National School, when the Old Church was pulled down in 1846. But what became of them when the school was restored to its original purpose I cannot say, nor have I been able to ascertain. I perfectly well remember that they were considered too dilapidated (being in tatters) to be placed in the new Church; and my impression is that they were given to or taken by the school cleaner to be used as floorcloths! I am sorry that I cannot give you a more satisfactory answer to your correspondent's question.

Runcorn.

JNO. BARCLAY.

[1349] SIR WILLIAM MAURICE.

[No. 489.—Jan. 29, 1879.]

THE late Mr. W. W. E. WYNN, of Peniarth, contributed an article to THE SHEAF, as above, (only a little more than a year before his lamented decease,) entitled "Welsh Troops for the Irish War." It was founded on an Original Document and Letter preserved in his famous collection of Welsh MSS., in the autograph of Captain ELLIS MAURICE, then in command of some Welsh reinforcements at CHESTER, awaiting shipment to Ireland. The documents had been addressed to his father, SIR WILLIAM MAURICE, of Clennenny, M.P. for the county Caernarvon between the years 1592 and 1604, and a personal friend of King James the First, who in fact was indebted to SIR WILLIAM for more than one essential State service.

A week or two ago I was staying for a short holiday at CRICCIETH; and, at the instance of a valued correspondent of THE SHEAF, walked out 3½ miles to the retired parish church of PENMORFA, between Criccieth and Portmadoc. This was the parish in which Clennenny, Sir William Maurice's mountain seat, was

situate, and in which he died. In the church-yard, close to the western door, I found a square, raised tomb, very plain in design, and much in decay; but it still preserved the inscription on its front, which I here print, from a heel-ball rubbing taken by my son and myself during our two hours' stay:—

HERE · LYETH · THE · BODIE · OF
THE · RIGHT · WORSHIPFUL ·
S' · WILLIAM · MAVRICE · OF
CLENENEY · KNIGHT · WHICH ·
DIED · THE · XTH · OF · AVGVST
AN'O · DO'INI · 1623.

It thus appears that our Welsh knight and statesman preceded his monarch and patron to the grave by just three years, and, as I gather from other facts, at a more than usually ripe old age.

T. HUGHES.

[1850] **BALDWIN'S BALLOON ASCENT FROM
CHESTER.**

The "circumstantial account" of this ascent alluded to by Mr. R. WILBRAHAM JONES, as noticed in *Manners and Customs of all Nations*, by the Rev. John Platt, 1827, will be found in the volume entitled,

"**AIRIPAIDIA**: Containing the Narrative of a **BALLOON EXCURSION** from **CHESTER**, the Eighth of September, 1785, taken from minutes made during the Voyage: **HINTS** on the Improvement of Balloons, and mode of inflation by **STEAM**, and Means to prevent their descent over Water: occasional Enquiries into the state of the atmosphere, favouring their direction: with various philosophical observations. To which is subjoined, **Mensuration of Heights** by the Barometer, made plain: with extensive Tables. The whole serving as an introduction to **AERIAL NAVIGATION**: with a copious Index. By **THOMAS BALDWIN, Esq., A.M.**"

"**CHESTER**: Printed for the Author, by J. Fletcher; and sold by W. Lowndes, No. 77, Fleet-street, London; J. Poole, Chester; and other Booksellers. 1786. Price, in Boards, 7s. 6d."

HEMINGWAY, in his *History of Chester*, vol. ii., page 252, says:—

"1785. On the 7th (September) Mr. **BALDWIN** ascended from the same place" (Castle Yard) "at one p.m., and descended beyond Warrington."

The account **BALDWIN** himself gives, at page 7 of his work, is as follows:—

"On Thursday, the 8th of September, 1785, at ix. in the morning, one of the cannons (a six-pounder) was first fired in the Castle yard, to inform the city and neighbourhood that the necessary preparations were making to inflate the balloon. At xii the cannon fired a second Time, to announce that the Process was in a proper Degree of Forwardness.

Before half-past one Mr. **LUNARDI** had inflated his Balloon in the finest manner; and at 40 minutes past one, the Balloon having a levity which not less

than 20 Pounds Weight would counterpoise, Mr. **BALDWIN** was liberated by the Hands of Mr. **LUNARDI**, who suffered no one to approach the Car."

The Car first landed at 28 minutes past three, in a field belonging to a Farm called *Bellair*, in the Township of **KINGSLEY**, near two Miles East by South from the Town of Frodsham, and twelve from Chester."

He landed exactly at 7 minutes before four, near the middle of **RIXTON Moss**; and on his return to Chester the following day "he was met by the Militia Band and ushered with loud Huzzas into his native city."

The volume is illustrated with 4 plates.

Ledsam.

R. M.

OCTOBER 20, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- Oct. 20.—The Organ used at Queen Victoria's Coronation in Westminster Abbey, erected in St. John's Church, Chester 1838
- " 21.—Davies Davenport and Wilbraham Egerton, esquires, returned as Knights of the Shire for Cheshire 1814
- " 22.—Faculty granted by Bishop Peplow to William Watkiss, gent., to build a second North Gallery, eastward, in Nantwich Church..... 1765
- " 23.—Randle Blundeville, Earl of Chester (founder of Beeston Castle), died at Wallingford 1232
- " 25.—The Jubilee of King George III. celebrated at Chester, with great rejoicings; an ox roasted whole in the Tower Field..... 1809
- " 26.—High Leigh new Chapel licensed for ten years for the performance of Divine Service 1815
- J. H.

Original Documents.

[1851] **COMPULSORY EDUCATION AT CHESTER
340 YEARS AGO.**

Some people seem to fancy that the **EDUCATION QUESTION**, and the "Compulsory Attendance of Children at School," are inventions of the present day. If such persons would only read their country's history with one tithe the interest they bestow each day upon their penny newspaper, they would find there were other and far earlier labourers than themselves, or their contemporaries, in the field of Public Education.

Take, as an example of this, the following curious and almost amusing Order issued by our civic potentates at CHESTER in the year 1589:—

"Tempore HENRICI GE, maioris Ciuitatis Cestr', A'o E'E's Henrici Octani tricesimo primo, 21 Nouember.

Youth of thage of vj yerres or aboue to be sett to Schole & other vertuous exercises, &c.

For asmoche as the wretched Liff of ociositie or Idlenes is the rote of all vices, and engendreth sloth, pou'tie, mys'ie, and other inconuenienc's, as voluptuositie and all other wayne things, sleynge the body, wasting good dedes, and letting [not allowing] v'tue and goodness to prosede, (whervnto youth & tender age by cou'se of nature dothe enelyne & obey, Unless some grace otherwyse be sent from Aboue,) or els the vse & exercise of busynes in learning of good & v'tuous leynig:

Children to be sett to Schole all week, & to Come to Church to here diuine seruice on holy days & Sundays: and afternoone to Shute on Rooday, or elsewhere, for pinns or poynts.

Therefore, and In advoynge of the same wretched lyfe of ociositie, & to set fourth the good & vertuous lyfe of working, learning, & Doing goodness,

It is ordred by the Right worshipfull HENRY GE, mayre of the Cytye of Chester [and] by shryffs, Ald'men & Com'on Counsaile therof, by their onne hole and full Assent & consent at an Assymby houlden w'tin the pentice of the Saide Citie, the xxjth day of Nouember, in ye xxxjth yere of the Reigne of ou' Souerregne lord King henry the Eght; that from thensforthe all & eu'y chylde or chyldryn, being of the age of vj yerres or Aboue, vpon eu'y wourke-day shalbe set to the schoule to learne ther belefe & other deuocions, p'ayers, & learning; or els to su' other good and u'tuous laboure, craft or occupacyon, wherby they and eu'y of them hereafter maye obteyne & haue an honest lyuing with goodnes; and that none of the Same chyldryne, of the same age of vj yerres or aboue, shalbe from hensforth kept Idell vpon the wourke day.

And that also vpon ye sonday & other holy dayes, all and eu'y the Saide chylidren shall resorte in ther p'oche churches, and ther Abyde duryng the tyme of deuine s'uiue ther vsed. And that donne, and the tyme of the Recreacyon at dyner, All & eu'y the saide mayle chyldryn shall Resorte to the rode ee, or sum other conuenient p'ace, To shoute, And ther shall shote and ex'cise the craft of Shoutinge and artillarie duryng the Rest and Remynant of the Said holodaye for pynes or poynts, and none other thing.

All parents of children to buye them Bowes & Arrows to sute with on Roodes, accordinge to ye Statute of Artillery, beinge the Autient use & means of defence of this Kingdom.

And that all and eu'y the fathers and mothers of suche children shall Se this order p'rformyd, and also shall bie or cause to be bought, for and to ther said mayle children, Bowes, Arrows, pynes and poynes, for the same purpose, According to the

statute Lately made for the maynten'nce of shout-ing in longe bowes and Artillarie, whych hath ben allwayes the meynes and defence of this the Kinges Realme of England; and also that from hensforth No vn-Lawfull gaymes be vsed w'tin the saide Citie, vpon the payne lymtyed in the statutes therof p'uided, w'ch shalbe leuied w'tout anye p'don therof or any p'te of the Same."

It is curious to note that in this Order no mention is made of how the young maidens were to employ themselves, or what recreation they were to have on the Sunday afternoon: I suppose they had to stand and meekly look on while their brothers and cousins were being instructed in the mysteries of the long bow.

It is evident that our law-makers were exercised in their minds just then, because the people were gradually losing their proficiency with the bow as a weapon of warfare. The English archers had always been well-nigh invincible in the field, and it was feared that the adoption of the new-fangled fire-arms as the national weapons would prove the downfall of England. The spirit and perseverance of the country however proved equal to the strain; and, down to the present day, the British soldier has always carried with him to the battle the best and most perfect weapon the art of gunnery could provide.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1852] MAJOR EDWARD V. TOWNSHEND.

THE TOWNSHENDS OF WINCHAM have now been so long associated with our old county by residence and intermarriage that, though we know they were originally AGBOROUGHs, and came to us out of Yorkshire, we can never look upon them now as other than a genuine Cheshire family. And, indeed, in the female line through their predecessors at Wincham, the VENABLEs' and the LEES, they are of the true Palatine blood, and Cheshire to the back-bone.

Major EDWARD TOWNSHEND, the author and object of the following Petition which has lately by chance come before us, was long mixed up, not only socially, but in a military and political sense as well, with both city and county. It was he who, harnessed with SIR JOHN GREY EGERTON, fought, for himself at least, in a fruitless battle for "Freedom and Independence" in this then pocket borough.

It was, however, in his capacity as a soldier that he addressed this manly, and almost reproachful, Petition to his Sovereign, on his being unduly passed by on the ladder of promotion:—

"To the King's Most Excellent Majesty, The Humble Petition of Major EDWARD TOWNSHEND, of the 59th Regt. of Foot in Ireland. Most Humbly Sheweth,

That your Petitioner has had the Honour of Serving your Majesty as an Officer these Eighteen Years, several of which in different Climates and Expeditions during the last War: att the conclusion of which, He had the misfortune of being Reduced as Captain. But having a desire of again serving your Majesty, He took the first opportunity of purchasing in the 57th Regm't, and immediately join'd at Minorca, and in the course of Succession succeeded to the Purchase of the Majority, but without Pay.

That about Twelve Months ago, the Lieut: Colon'l, MAJOR GEN'L. TOWNSHEND, finding himself in a declining state of health, proposed to your Petitioner to Resign in his favour for an adequate consideration in Money, which was agreed to, and the Money Lodged in his Banker's hands; having at the same time the Consent of the Colonel, Lieut. Gen'l Irvine, for the Succession to go Regularly, and the Eldest Captain to succeed as Major, both their long services being well known to the General.

That this affair has ever since been under dependence; but your Petitioner is now inform'd that Your Majesty's present Lord Lieut., the Earl of Harcourt, has recommended another person to succeed MAJOR GEN'L TOWNSHEND's Resignation. Which your Petitioner Humbly thinks His Excell'cy wou'd not have done, had he been inform'd of your Petitioner's Services, his Constant Attend'ce to his duty, and the Pecuniary Loss your Petitioner will sustain, amounting to 200£, by having his money so long lodged.

Your Petitioner at the same time Humbly presumes to lay before Your Majesty the long services of his Brother, CAPTAIN GEORGE SALUSBURY TOWNSHEND, who has served Ten Years as Capt'n, and is now Eldest of the 57th Regm't, who will be deprived of Succeeding to the Majority, should the Succession, as recommended by the Lord Lieut., take place.

All which is most Humbly submitted to Your Majesty's great Wisdom & Consideration.

EDWD. TOWNSHEND,
Major 57th Regm't.

N.B.

Two very Essential circumstances was forgott being inserted, through the hurry and shortness of time, viz't., I was the only Capt'n of the Regm't I then belonged to, that Landed upon the 2nd descent at Bellisle. As soon as ashore, I mett an old friend, Capt'n Murray of the Marines: we shook hands; "God Bless you!, the affair is Hott and Serious!" We both went on: he soon after rec'd three wounds & fell,—I had the misfortune not to be wounded that day, or the whole Siege; therefore, after the fatigues was over by subduing the place, had this very Capt'n Murray appointed Major over my head! Secondly, My brother, CAPT'N G. S. TOWNSHEND, served in Germany, Bell Isle, & Portugal, purchased his Company, was reduced, & purchased again."

The Petition is without date; but from the circumstance that he names the EARL OF HARCOURT as having lately succeeded to the Lord Lieutenancy of Ireland,

we know that it was drawn up in or about the year 1778. It proved, however, of little avail; for both the Major and his gallant brother, Captain G. S. TOWNSHEND, saw but little more service, save with the Cheshire Volunteers and Militia: the former, we should add, spent most of his later years as an honoured resident within the walls of our old city. EDITOR.

Queries.

[1353]

A CALFE KIDD.

Among the payments recorded by the Treasurers for the city of Chester, for the year 1684-5, are the following, in connection with the Proclamation and Coronation of King James the Second:—

"April 15. [Paid] for ye proclamation
for proclaiminge King James ye 2... 00: 02: 06
May 20. Given Mr. Prebend Tomson
[William Thompson, Rector of St.
Peter's], for preaching on ye Kings
coronation day, by ord' from Mr.
Maio and justices..... 01: 01: 00
May 22. paid W'm Coulson for making
a calfe kidd at Roodee, as a peers by
note 00: 09: 00."

Will any generous Cestrian kindly enlighten me as to the meaning of a *Calfe Kidd*?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[1354]

CHESHIRE LAWYERS.

It has occurred to me, that, if anything like a complete list of our Cheshire-born lawyers of eminence be in existence, such a catalogue, if printed in your columns, would be acceptable to many readers, beyond the mere profession itself. Is there no one, having time at his disposal, who would prepare such a list, interesting not simply to present students of the law, but to all those of our county who in the future may aspire to make it their profession?

Cambridge.

T. CANN HUGHES.

[1355]

THE HONOR OF CHESTER.

This term is used in certain deeds relating to the county palatine and elsewhere. What was its signification, and does it in any form exist in our own times?

A WOODMAN.

Replies.

[1356]

RICHARD BRADSHAW, OF CHESTER.

[No. 58.—May 29, 1878.]

This worthy (from a Roundhead point of view) was not actually a native of Cheshire; but by long residence

and family connections seems to belong almost more to CHESTER than to Lancashire, where he was born in 1610. He was the younger of two sons of ROGER BRADSHAW, of Aspull, in the latter county, his father's first wife having been a daughter of BISHOP DOWNHAM of CHESTER.

RICHARD BRADSHAW settled in Chester as a merchant, trafficking apparently in the staple of the county—Cheese—and was admitted to the Freedom of the city in 1635. Four years afterwards, he served the office of Sheriff of Chester, and about that time married CATHERINE, daughter and heiress of JOHN FITTON, of Bollin, a younger brother of Sir Edward Fitton.

RICHARD BRADSHAW, being then a Sheriff's peer, or what was locally known as "single Alderman," was present at the meeting of the Chester House of Assembly, on Feb. 3, 1643, when the Mayor and Commonalty loyally determined to fortify the city in the interests of King Charles.

In 1648, having meanwhile changed sides and become a violent partisan of the Parliament, he became Mayor of Chester. Very likely, indeed, he was one of those to whom LORD BYRON in his letter to PRINCE RUPERT, printed at No. 1322 of THE SHEAF, alluded as "ill-affected, refractory, and treacherous people within" the city, and very much hampering the Cause of the Royalist here in 1644. It (1648) was the year after the surrender of the city to Sir W. BRETTON; and a few months afterwards, we find him, in his Letter to PRESIDENT BRADSHAW (who was, *perhaps*, a distant relative), acknowledging himself foiled in his efforts to cajole or coerce the leading Cestrians to sign the disloyal "Engagement." (THE SHEAF, vol. i, p. 17).

Going up to London "within ten days, to wait on the most Hon'ble Council of State to receive their further pleasure," he was, on the 15th of March, 1649-50, appointed to be the "English Resident for Hamburg," a semi-diplomatic post then held of high importance. On the 30th of the same month, his Instructions, together with his Commission under the Great Seal, were delivered to him. "Mr. MILTON, Secretary for foreign tongues," wrote his credential letter, and he at once left England to carry out his mission.

In his formal Admission to the Freedom of Chester in 1635, he was described as a Merchant; and now we get a clue as to the sort of merchandize he dealt in. In the "Council of State's Daily Proceedings" for the 4th of April, 1649-50, Mr. Scott the Secretary is directed "to correspond with RICHARD BRADSHAW, now sent Resident to Hamburg, by cypher." And on the same day,

"Considering the petition of RICHARD BRADSHAW, Resident at Hamburg, and finding by the proposals of Lt.-Col. Barrow, on behalf of the forces in Ulster, that the 30 tons of Cheese in Bradshaw's petition mentioned is of absolute necessity for the forces in Ulster,—Order should be given to CHARLES WALLY

[Alderman of Chester] to see the cheese weighed and shipped to Carrick-fergus in Ireland, for the said forces. That MR. WALLY receive no cheese but what is sound and good, and receive a Certificate of the weight. Bradshaw to be allowed 41 shillings for every Cwt. of 120lb."

RICHARD BRADSHAW returned to CHESTER from his diplomatic post in September 1651. MR. BEAMONT of Warrington, in his *Stanley Papers*, Vol. 2, "Chetham Society," p. cclx, speaks of "the Hon'ble RICHARD BRADSHAW" as being "the Nephew of the President." But I can find no such Nephew in the Bradshaw pedigree in ORMEROD; and perhaps he has been confounded with the Henry Bradshaw named in the following quotation, given in Mr. EARWAKER's *East Cheshire*, vol. 2, p. 72, from the *Mercurius Politicus* for 1659, describing the State Funeral of the notorious Lord President:—

"The chief mourner was Henry Bradshaw, Esq., Nephew of the deceased: there were Mourners also the Lord Terril, and the Lord Fountains, his late Brother Commissioners of the Great Seale, Mr. Justice Archer, Mr. Solicitor Ellis, Richard Bradshaw, Esq., who hath served this Commonwealth many years in the honorable Quality of Resident at Hamburg, and been employed in several other publick negotiations with Princes; besides many other persons of quality which attended in mourning."

RICHARD BRADSHAW was certainly no very near relative of the Lord President's, so far at least as being of the Marple race and blood. But there is no doubt he was a protégé of the quondam High Steward of CONGLETON, after the sturdy JOHN had thrown up that local appointment, and had asserted his place among the prominent leaders of the Commonwealth. At this point I must leave our Richard for awhile, and in a future article complete my attempt on a hitherto somewhat neglected biography.

T. HUGHES.

[1357] THE GRASLEY FAMILY.—MR. SAMUEL HEATH.

[Nos. 1122, 1169.—April 28, June 2.]

I regret that I cannot give Mr. EARWAKER any direct information as to the age of SAMUEL HEATH at the time of his death. From the same book of memoranda (quoted in No. 1122) I shall trouble the Editor of THE SHEAF with a few entries more:—

"Alice Turbut was Born in withington, in Cheshire, the 16 day of July, in the year 1659."

"Samuell, our 14 child, was Born in Copperally, in Dublin, the 22 day of febery, neer Eleven a clock at night, 1699."

It would appear from other memoranda that all the sons of John Turbut and Alice Grasley died young.

"1723. Aprill 6th. It being Saturday morning, ab't one a Clock, my father, John Turbutt,

departed this Life after a tedious sickness of 3 or 4 months, & was buried the Sunday night following in Warbroughs Church Yard."

"1723-4. Mem. Saml. Turbutt and Easter Sturges, daughter of Charles Sturges, of Ballycoragh, in the county of Dublin & parish of Tallogh, was married on Shrow Tewsday, the 18th day of feeb'y."

"1731. April 25th. It being Sunday night, exactly attwelve a clock, my mother, Alice Turbutt, departed this life after a tedious Sickness, and was bureyed the tuesday night after at Wharborough's Church yard, near my father.

Signed, SAM: TURBUT."

As to SAMUEL HEATH's family, not being able to consult the pedigree mentioned by MR. EARWAKER as in the second vol. of *East Cheshire*, just at present, I am under the impression that other members of his family settled in Dublin about the same time he did, and acquired considerable property both in the city and in the neighbouring county of Wicklow. In the *Dublin News Letter* of 1741, I find under date September 3rd—

"Died at Kilmainham, Mr. Heath, a noted tanner, and a man of fair character."

And under date, February 1, 1742, in the same publication—

"To be let, the house in Kilmainham (near Dublin), in which the late Mr. SAMUEL HEATH lived, together with the large Tan yard, Bark houses, Mill, Kiln, &c., for any term of years. Enquire (amongst others mentioned in the advertisement) of Mrs. LIDIA HEATH, widow, in Kilmainham."

The descendants of the Heath family still exist in the parish of Temple-michael, in the county of Wicklow; but, owing to the destruction of records and Parish Registers during the rebellion of 1798, it is difficult to trace them with any precision. The following is an inscription on a tombstone in that parish church-yard:—

"Here lyeth the body of William Heath, departed this life August the 4, 1744, aged 72 years."

Samuel, William, and Robert, appear to have been the favorite christian names of the males, and Elizabeth of the females, of the family.

Dublin. WM. MONK GIBBON.

[1858] SAMUEL RICHARDSON, THE STENO-
GRAPHER, OF CHESTER.

[No. 1178.—June 9.]

I possess two editions of Richardson's *Short-Hand*, but not the one Mr. BAILEY enquires for. The *Gentleman's Magazine* for May, 1805, quoting from the *Chester Courant* of the time, contains the following obituary notice of the author:—

1805, April. "At Chester, Mr. SAMUEL RICHARDSON, some time a schoolmaster in that city, and pastor of a small society of professed Christians of the Particular Baptist denomination. He was a person of considerable shrewdness of intellect and

much application of mind; and had he in his younger years enjoyed the advantages of a liberal education, he had unquestionably ranked high among the literary characters of the age. This defect was however compensated in his riper years by an intense application to study. A few years ago, his attention being attracted to Short-Hand writing, he projected an improvement in that useful and ingenious art, and published a *New System*; by which, he demonstrated that more might be written in an hour than could be done in an hour and a half by any other system extant. This work evinces a considerable degree of ingenuity, and was much and deservedly commended by the critics. He also contributed occasionally to Magazines and other periodical works, without affixing his name to his pieces; but most of them evince a clearness of conception, and an application of thought, which are very creditable to his memory."

SAMUEL RICHARDSON was educated for three years in The King's School, Chester, viz, from June 24, 1736 to 1739, as a Foundationer: I suspect, therefore, he was in his boyhood either a lazy scholar, or else was, in the words of the School's abrogated charter, not "apt to learn." Mr. Richardson died at his house in Pepper-street, on March 21st, 1805. G. T.

OCTOBER 27, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- Oct. 27.—Contested Election for City Sheriff at Chester;—Grace 278, Brittain 210... 1809
 „ 28.—General Glegg (then a Lieutenant) arrived at his father's house at Gayton by Neston. The family were in mourning for his supposed death..... 1794
 „ 29.—George II., Royal Earl of Chester, born 1683
 „ 31.—St. John's Church, High Leigh, consecrated by Bishop G. H. Law..... 1816
 Nov. 2.—Stretton Chapel, in Great Budworth, Cheshire, consecrated by Bishop Charles J. Blomfield..... 1827
 J. H.

Original Documents.

[1859] ROUNDHEAD LOCAL FEUDS.

It must not be supposed that, in the great struggle for supremacy known as the Civil War, the successful party was always free from internal divisions and cross-purposes,—careful study of the correspondence of the period shows indeed that it was quite the contrary.

Jacks in office, fighting originally for their own and the nation's supposed freedom, became, in the intoxication of victory, even more tyrannous than the tyrant; and, indeed, petty jealousies were then only too often visible in local as well as in the national councils.

The following three Letters contributed by DR. KENDRICK, of Warrington, from the BREKTON CORRESPONDENCE, exhibit pretty clearly the presence of this running sore in the Parliamentary garrison of that town:—

“For Mr. MARBURY, from Coll. Jo. BOOTH.

Sir,—

It is a thing soe new to mee that either Captaine PRITCHET, or any other, should either in list sould'rs or charge monyes upon any of y'r Townshipes w'th-in ye devision allotted to mee, that I cannot give way to either; and if anie goe about by force to compell either, I shall use my utmost indeiour to make it appeare to them that they are in a wrong way, If I be able to resist their power. And in ye meane tyme I hope yo'r Towne is both able and willing to defend it selfe, w'ch I desire may be done.

S'r, ye horse in ye CHESHIRE Townshipes must of necessity either shew themselves when they are called upon, or I shall be constrained to convert them into foote sould'rs, and force to constant dutie; in regard it hath already bin informed above that, under my protection, these Townshipes are exempted from all manner of service: this I desire may be taken into considerac'on.

S'r, I am,

Yo'r assured freind,

J. BOOTH.”

“From Mr. MARBURY to S'r WM. BREKTON, touchin Coll. JOHN BOOTH his l're.

Cosen,

I desire y't you will take this l're in to considerac'on, for wee are under ye Com'and of ye Governer, who is now Raising some companies out of his allotm'ts, as wee may perceive by this l're, and to send out our men w'thout his consent will be ill taken. I request you to write to ye Gov'r, who I know will give you better sattisfaction, otherwise wee should be ready to sattisfie yo'r demand.

We have sent one of ye counstables according to yo'r directions given to ye sould'rs. But I have such confidence in you, in respect of kindered, that you will not stay ye counstable, (but take my word) for ye sending in of a sould'r w'thin two dayes, if ye Gov'r give consent. Thus with my respects remembered, I rest

Yo'r asseured kinsman to
com'and,

THO'S MARBURY.”

“To S'r WM. BREKTON, touching the insolencies of ye Garrison of Warrington.

Honor'ble S'r,

Upon Saturday last the sould'rs, raised w'thin this hundred of BUCKLOW to goe under ye com'and of Captaine FRENCH, appeareing to be in number far short of what they should have bine, and that many Townes in ye hundred had sent in none, There was

a warrant signed by S'r GEO. BOOTH and MR. MARBURY and delivered unto Capt. FRENCH: to authorise him, w'th those sould'rs he had then, to repaire unto ye sev'ral ITownships, then neglective in sending in their sould'rs w'th their compleest armes, as their sev'ral townshipes for ye designe in hand now stand charged w'th. And accordingly he having gathered them to geather, and being upon his march Toward TARVIN w'th them yesterday Lt. ALCOCKE, of WARRINGTON Garrison, came w'th a p'tie of horse and foote from thence & took them from him; and discharged them, and sent them to their sev'ral whomes: theis we thought good to certifie, leaveing it to y'r wise considerac'on what you will have therein, and soe wee humbly take our leaves, and rest.

Yo'r affectionate friend and
servants

WM. MARBURY.

THO. POWNALL.

13 April, 1645.

We here that S'r Geo. Booth was exceedingly displeased w'th Alcocke and hath written a l're to Coll. Jo: Booth,—what the Ishue will be, wee shall know to-morrow.

Some good news from you will raise our drooping spirits.”

It is evident from the above that WARRINGTON, just then, stood on the cone of a volcano; but I do not gather from the authorities at my disposal whether any trouble really came of it; or whether and how Lieutenant ALCOCK got punished by the two Booths for his mutinous behaviour. “What the Ishue will be, wee shall know to-morrow,” says the letter; but for us historically, so far as I can glean, to-morrow never came.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1380] PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION OF CHESTER, CITY AND COUNTY.

The County of CHESTER, being a County Palatine, was vested in the EARLS OF CHESTER, who (through the grant of the Earldom by William I. to his nephew, HUGH LUPUS) held it by the tenure “To hold to him and his heirs as freely by the sword as the King held the crown of England.” And “it had a very high & sovereign jurisdiction; for Hugh Lupus, and his successors, convened Parliaments, consisting of Barons of their own creation, and of their own tenants, who were not bound by the acts passed in the general assembly of the kingdom.” EDWARD I. virtually annexed the Earldom to the Crown by conferring the title on his eldest son, afterwards EDWARD II.

It never received any summons, either for its County or City, to return Members to Parliament till Hen.

VIII.'s time; when that King in 1543 impriviled this County to send Two Knights, and the City Two Burgesses, as other English Counties, Cities, and Boroughs did.

The following list of Members for the City of Chester, is collated from the Parliamentary Blue Book of last year, and Browne Willis's *Notitia Parliamentaria*, and other named sources.

"Parliament at Westminster.

Anno. 1, Edward VI., 1547.

Parliament began Nov. 6, 1547, and sate, with the usual adjournments, till April 15, 1552, when it was dissolved.

Co. Chester, THO. HOLCROFT.

Chester Civ.

Browne Willis *Not. Parl.*"

But the Parliamentary Blue Book states, on the contrary,

"Parliament of England, 1 Edw. VI. (1547),

Summoned to meet at *Westminster*, 4 November, 1547, dissolved 15 April, 1552.

Chester, Writs only.

Chester County,

It will be seen that there are here two discrepancies, one in the date of this Parliament's commencing, and the other, in the name of the Member for the County being omitted.

"Second Parliament at Westminster,

7 Edward VI. 1552-3.

Anno 7. his second Parliament began March 1, 1553, and held to March 31 following, when it was dissolved.

A Third Parliament was appointed by the King to have met in September this year; but his Majesty dying July 6, the summons fell with him.

RICHARD SNEYD, Gent.

RALPH MAINWARING, Alderman.

Browne Willis *Not. Parl.*"

Hemingway and *Ormerod* record the same, while the Parliamentary Blue Book gives

"RICARDUS SNEYD, generosus, recordator
RANULPHUS MAINWARINGE, aldermannus."

and the date of their return as 23 January, 1552-3.

RICHARD SNEYDE was a descendant of Henry de Sneyde of Tunstall and Sneyde in the County of Staffordshire. A William Sneyde had become a citizen of Chester and a member of the Linen-drappers, Company in the time of Edward IV. and Henry VII., and served the of Sheriff in 1473, and Mayor in 1479. He became the possessor of Bradwell, in Staffordshire. Erdeswick in his *Survey* of that County, p. 8, writes "Bradwell, the seat of *Ralph* the son of Sir *William Sneyde* who is the fourth Man from the raizer of that family, *William* by name, a Citizen of Chester, who had issue *Richard*, the Father of the said Sir *William*."

He had two sons, Richard and William: the latter was made free of the City by the Mayor, Thomas Barrow, 19th January 1496, and is described as son of William Sneyde the elder, draper. He was Sheriff of Chester in 1504, and Mayor in 1516 and 1532.

RICHARD, the eldest son, became Recorder of Chester, 10 Henry VIII. (1518), and was succeeded by RAUF WRINE in 1535. In *Halsby's Ormerod*, Vol. I., p. 221, in a foot note, it states that he resumed office again from 1551 to 1556; but in the pedigree of the family as given in Burke's *Landed Gentry*, it states his death as occurring 27 Henry VIII. (1535) (which corresponds with WRINE's succession), and gives his second son RICHARD as the Member for Chester.

Sir WILLIAM SNEYDE, Knight, the eldest son, was Mayor of Chester in 1566, and had a grant made to him (from the Crown) of KEELE; and it is from him by his first wife ANNE, daughter and heiress of THOMAS BARROWE, Esq., of Flookersbrook, near Chester, that the present family of the Sneydes of Keele, in Staffordshire, are descended, his eldest son being RALPH, mentioned by Erdeswick. The name occurs in the Parish Registers of St. Michael's and St. Peter's Churches, Chester.

RALPH MAINWARING, Alderman, never appears to have occupied any civic office, his name not being among the lists of Mayors or Sheriffs.

Is he the Rauffe Manwayringe, dead 29 Eliz., son of Charles Manwayringe of Oroxtou, in this county?

"Parliament at Westminster, 1 Maria, 1553.

Parliament began at Westminster Oct. 5, 1553, and held to Oct. 31, when prorogued. The second Session began Oct. 24, and held to Dec. 6, and was then dissolved.

(Note).—This Bundle in the Rolls Chapel being very deficient, has been happily supply'd from a complete List in a MS. in the Bodl. Library at Oxford, transmitted to me Anno 1713 by the late learned Antiquarian, Mr. Tho. Hearne.

RICH. SNEYDE, Gent.

THO. MASSEY, Gent.

Browne Willis' *Not. Parl.*"

Hemingway and *Ormerod* give the same, whereas the Parliamentary Blue Book records as follows:—

"Parliament of England, 1 Mary, 1553, Summoned to meet at *Westminster* 5 October; dissolved 5 December, 1553.

RICARDUS SNEYDE, generosus, recordator Cestr'.

THOMAS MASSEY, aldermannus.

Date of their Return, 4 September, 1553."

RICHARD SNEYDE [see preceding Parliament 7 Ed. VI. (1553)]

THOMAS MASSEY. This worthy was of BROXTON. He died April 20, 6 Elizabeth (1564), and married Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of David Middleton of Chester, Sheriff in 1512, and Mayor in 1523 and 1538.

"Second Parliament at Westminster, 1 Maris, 1554.

A second Parliament was summoned to meet at Oxford, April 2, 1554, but adjourned to Westminster, where it sate from April 5 to May 5, and was then dissolved.

N.B.—There being only about 160 Names of Members remaining in the Bundle in the Rolls Chapel, if a more perfect list could not have been found, near 240 Members names would have been omitted in this Parliament.

RICH. SNEYDE. [see above.]

WILL. ALDERSEY.

Brown Willis' Not. Parl."

Hemingway and *Ormerod*, in their respective *Histories*, are in accord with this.

WILLIAM ALDERSEY was a descendant of the Alderseys of Aldersey in this county: several younger branches of this family settled in Chester, and held civic appointments.

In the pedigree (*Ormerod*) of this family, the only one of the name then living, though not mentioned as having been returned for Chester, is William Aldersey, of Chester, merchant (son of John Aldersey, of Middle Aldersey, and a merchant of Chester, living in 1566); he was Sheriff in 1539, and dying October 12th, 1577, was buried at St. Oswald's.

In 1573 he and his son John were disfranchised, through the controversy between the city and the Vice-Chamberlain; but, on the 26th of April, they appeared before the Mayor and Citizens and desired to have their former liberties, which were restored, the first to his aldermanship, and his son a merchant, as he was before.

Hemingway, vol. ii., p. 396, states that the first Parliamentary contest he is acquainted with took place in 1672: but this is most likely the first, as WILLIAM ALDERSEY only seems to have been returned for this short Session, the former member, THOMAS MASSEY, regaining his seat at the next election.

"Third Parliament, 1 and 2 P. and M. (1554).

Third Parliament, an. 1 and 2 Philip and Mary, began at Westminster Nov. 12, 1554, and held to Jan. 16, when it was dissolved.

RICH. SNEYDE, Recorder.

THO. MASSEY, Esq.

Browne Willis' Not. Parl."

Hemingway and *Ormerod* record the same, while the Parliamentary Blue Book has

"RICARDUS SNEYD, armiger, de civitate Cestr'
THOMAS MASSEY, armiger. [as before.]
recorderator. [as before.]

Date of their Return, 25 October, 1554."

Ledsham.

R. M.

Queries.

[1861] COCK-FIGHT HILL, CHESTER.

The following extract from a deed of Feoffment in my possession will, I think, interest some of the readers of THE SHEAF:—

"This Indenture made the eleventh day of January, in the first year of the Raigne of our Sovereigne Lord and Lady William and Mary, &c., An'o D'ni 1689, Between William Garratt of the City of Chester, Clothier, of the one parte, And Albin Gray of the said City of Chester, Bricklayer, of the other parte, Witnesseth that the said William Garratt, for and in consideration of the sum of thirteen pounds of Lawfull Money of England to him in hand paid, by the said Albin Gray att and before thensealing, &c., hath granted, aliened, released and confirmed, unto the said Albin Gray All that peece or parcell of Land with Thappurtenances lyeing and being towards HOOLE RAKE, within the liberties of the said City of CHESTER, near unto a certaine place called COCK-FIGHT HILL; containing in length about six and thirty yards, formerly adjoining to a certaine barne of the heires of Edward Stanley gent., deceased, which are now the lands of Edward Gray of the said City, Bricklayer, on the East side; and unto a certaine clausure of Lands called the Brick yard, which is of late converted into a garden, and now in the Tenure or possession of William Kennion, of the said City, gardiner, on the West side thereof; and in breadth twenty yards, and Adjoining to a certaine parcell of Land called *Justinge Croft*, on the South side, and betweene the said parcell of land called *Justinge Croft* and a Comon Field or Pasture called *Hoole rake*, on the north side thereof; which said peece or parcell of land now is and for severall yeares last past hath been in the Tenure, holding, or possession of him, the said William Garratt, his undertenants or assigns."

Then follow the usual words as to royalties, &c.

"To have and to hold to the said Albin Gray, his heires and assigns, to the only proper use and behoofe of the said Albin Gray, his heires and assigns for ever."

With the usual covenants for title, &c.

The witnesses to the execution of the deed, and to the receipt for the consideration money, are

"Bandle Holme, jun.,
John Chapman,
William Bridges."

The Query naturally arises out of this,—What further is known of this COCKFIGHT HILL?

Dublin.

W. MONK GIBBON.

[1862] A SHOEVERING.

What is the meaning of this word, which is absent from at any rate most modern dictionaries? I have

twice lately fallen in with the word in some early notices of Cheshire property in the Public Record Office, London.

A WOODMAN.

Replies.

[1863] BEAR AND BILLET INN, CHESTER.

[No. 402.—Dec. 3, 1878.]

Unfortunately, this query has not been answered in the first volume, and I can find very little information about it. The date on its front is 1664, and the ornamental beams are similar to work of that time.

It is supposed that the building is one that was retained for the use of the Earls of Shrewsbury, who, as representing the Troutbecks, purchased a moiety of the Bridgegate in 1660. A paper on the serjeantry of this and the other gates of Chester would be an interesting addition to the *THE SHEAF*'s notes.

Not having been touched for many years, the front of the "Bear and Billet" has assumed a very dilapidated appearance, yet is undoubtedly rich in effect.

The painting of the timber is white, which seems to be unique, and certainly gives a very great contrast, especially in Chester, where we usually look for black timber. I suppose it is a matter of taste but I prefer the black, as a more suitable colour both for effect and endurance.

The glazing in the windows of the first floor is also very strange, reminding one of the patchwork counterpanes that are almost peculiar to Cheshire, the quarries are so very much varied.

But I have heard that the front is to be restored and freshened up. I have no doubt that the old building will be tenderly handled under the architect employed to carry out this and the needful alterations to the premises.

J. H.

[1864] THE MAYOR OF CHESTER'S PILLORY.

[No. 635, 698, 790.—April 30, June 11, Aug. 20, 1879.]

It was not in 1800, but five years later, that the PILLORY at the Chester High Cross was for the last time used, as recorded by your valued correspondent DR. BRUSHFIELD. The *Chester Courant* for Oct. 29, 1805, thus shortly tells the story:—

"At our City Sessions, which took place on Thursday last [Oct. 24], John Steele was convicted of an assault on Betty Flin, a child seven years of age, and sentenced to be imprisoned 19 months in the Northgate Gaol, and to stand in the Pillory."

And the same paper for Nov. 19 says:—

"On Wednesday, Nov. 13, John Steel, for an assault upon Betsey Flin, stood in the pillory, at the Cross, one hour, pursuant to his sentence."

G. T.

We find the following payment recorded in the Treasurers' Book of the Corporation, under date

"1805. Nov. 13. Paid Constables for attending Sheriffs when John Steele was put in the Pillory 3. 17. 6"

EDITOR.

[1865]

GWAENYSGOR CHURCH.

[No. 1325.—Sept. 29.]

Secluded as is the nook in which this little edifice is situate, it did not escape the notice of our Welsh antiquary, PENNANT: for in the second volume of his *Tours in Wales* he says:—

"Return along the ridge [of the hill called *Cop-a'r-leni*], marked its whole length with verdant tumuli, the tombs of ancient heroes. See beneath the little church of Gwaen-yakor, remarkable for its ancient register."

The church is dedicated to St. Mary. Your correspondent is wrongly informed, that only twelve clergymen have held this benefice; as in the second volume of Willis' *St. Asaph*, edited by Edwards, there is a list of 20 Vicars between 1547 and 1811, and there must have been at least one or two since that date.

There is a description of the Gop (or *Cop-a'r-leni*) Tumulus, in this parish, in Vol. 4 of the *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, 3rd series; where the author states his belief that this Tumulus is the largest but one in Britain. He further states, on the authority of Parry's *Royal Progresses through Wales*, that "it is funereal, and was made to cover the ashes of the thousands slain in the great battle between Boadicea, the British queen, and Suetonius Paulinus, the Roman general." I conclude this is the mound your correspondent has noticed in the hilly country above Prestatyn.

Cambridge.

CANN HUGHES.

NOVEMBER 3, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Nov. 3.—Marcia Emma Georgiana, Marchioness of Cholmondeley, died in London.....	1879
„ 5.—Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart., gave his banquet in the Exchange to 200 persons. A baron of beef on the table, weighing over 500lbs.	1813
„ 6.—Electric Light first used at Chester, at the Hydraulic Engineering Works, Charles-street.....	1879
„ 7.—Thomas Egerton, Lord Chancellor Ellesmere, created Viscount Brackley.....	1616
„ 8.—Richard II.'s Confirmation Charter to St. Mary's Nunnery, Chester, dated.....	1383
„ 9.—Albert Edward, Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester, born	1841

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1866] SHERIFF POWELL, AND THE COLLECTION OF THE SHIP-MONEY OF CHESHIRE.

Some particulars have been preserved about the collection in CHESHIRE of the unpopular National Tax, called the Ship-money, at the time when the opposition to it was becoming intensified on account of the near approach of the meeting of Parliament. Sir THOMAS POWELL, whose troubles in connection with this tax are about to be related, had been appointed Sheriff of Cheshire, 16 Car. I., his successor in the following year being JOHN BELLOT. He was of BIRKENHEAD, co. Chester, and HORSLEY, co. Denbigh; created a baronet 31st Jan., 1628-9; married Catherine, a daughter of Sir John Egerton, of Egerton and Oulton (Ormerod's *Cheshire*, ii., 460-1; Burke's *Extinct Baronetage*)

The Sheriff's anxieties are laid before the Lords of the Council in a series of letters, now in the Record Office. The first letter is dated 12th Feb., 1639-40 (Vol. cccxiv., No. 24), when Sir THOMAS, writing from CHESTER to EDWARD NICHOLAS, Clerk of the Council and Secretary to the Admiralty, asks him to acquaint the Lords that he had endeavoured to get a good round sum of the Ship-money out of his bailiwick; but such was the poverty of the country and its grievances that he failed in obtaining the same, owing chiefly to an erroneous course in the taxation of the country. After explaining what the erroneous course was, Sir Thomas says he had promised to make a new assessment, viz., by "myses," which was "the usual manner of payment;" otherwise they must not expect the money to be paid without rigour and much discontent. He adds: "I shall present the petition of the county in general for a longer time to pay this money in; and of the hundred where I dwell in particular, to have the half of their payment respite until Midsummer next, it being the poorest part within the county, and wholly dependent on its worn crops, which partially failed this last year." With this communication, which is sealed with arms, afterwards described, he encloses a certificate shewing a total of £159 18s. 9d. received to date for the Ship-money on the writs of 1639 within the county of Chester. In whatever way the levy was made, money came in very slowly.

On the 4th April, 1640, writing from Chester to LAWRENCE WHITAKER, the successor of Nicholas as Clerk to the Council, who lived over against the Red Bull in Drury-lane, Sir THOMAS POWELL alludes to his disagreeable position in regard to his neighbours (Vol. cccv., No. 28). On the one side he might be thought remiss if he did not levy the money with speed; on the other side, he might be accounted

"too officious and a pick-thank if I inform against those of my neighbours and countrymen here, who

are much to blame for their backwardness in paying, and for persuading others by word or example; yet the duty of my place has swayd with me, to present you herein the names of some refractories and delinquents to be made known to the Lords; not only for proceedings to be had against them, but for manifestation of the rocks and sands upon which I am cast so often, in sailing through the raging seas of this marine affair."

A copy of Sir THOMAS POWELL's list of names, the brevity of which certainly shows his forbearance in regard to his neighbours, here follows:—

"HENRY MANWARINGE, Esqr. } Assessed in small
JOHN LEECH, of Carden, gent. } some, yet refuse
JULIUS WYNNINGTON, gent. } to pay wth trifling
excuses, viz., that they do not deny paym^t, but
y^t they have not money, as now, &c. Their
neighbours followe their example, and say they
will pay when the aforementioned shall have paid
first.

NICHOLAS INCE, of ye Cittle of } These stubbornly
Chester, Ald'rman } refuse to pay, and
RICHARD BROSTER, Tanner there } there is noe dis-
tresse to bee had upon y^r lands.

JOHN CARTER } of the Township of Whotcroft,
GEORGE VERNON } yeomen.

These made Rescous of a distressee taken; and
VERNON (wth his fist) stroke the Constable on
ye face, and stepping back, drew out his knife
and threatened the Constable to whett it in his
gutta.

THO. POWELL, Vic' Com. Cestr."

Three months later the accounts of the Shrievalty were still unsettled. Complaining to "his brother," Lawrence Whitaker, who as a J.P. for Middlesex, had also his own troubles in the Ship-money business, Sir THOMAS POWELL thus writes, 3 July, 1640 (Vol. cccclix., No. 21):—

"Albeit I put you to unreasonable charge in very paying the post so many sixpences, for his carriage of my letters to you, yet I cannot forbear to advertise you, and pray you to certify to the Board, my endeavours to execute the service of Ship-money.

I find such combinations that I cannot as yet get in any more money to any purpose. I have issued money from my own purse, in bearing the charges of such special bailiffs as I send, as my trustiest agents, to aid the constables in distraining; of which moneys I have not yet received any payments out of the distresses, or from those officers whose persons (because of their neglect of his Majesty's service and their refusal to give bond to answer the same at the Council) I have committed. The reason is that no man will buy the goods restrained, and the persons committed continue in their obstinacy and refuse to take release, thinking to have more advantage against me, and aggravate my proceedings as illegal.

There is yet in the Castle at Chester, one GEORGE EDGLEE, one of the head constables of Nantwich

hundred, whom I committed for wilful neglect, and keep in for refusing to conform to the duties of his office, until I receive from his Board notice of his Majesty's pleasure concerning him : which (because of many threats against me by the great men who favour this Edgley, being of the purer sort), I entreat you to procure me, that I be not justly charged for oppressing him ; which they might have some colour to charge me with, if I should not certify his restraint and the cause thereof, and desire to know his Majesty's pleasure thereupon. The quarter sessions for the county are at hand, and then Edgley, by order of the Bench, hopes to be released from his head constableness, and consequently from his restraint. But though his office should cease, I think his crime committed during his office is punishable afterwards, and determinable only at the King's pleasure.

The justices of the peace of that faction will prefer bills of indictment against me, and my under officers who stir at all in the levy of this ship-money ; and therefore if we be not well backed up by his Majesty and the Board, in our proceedings according to his writ and their instructions, I and my agents will be utterly discouraged. There is among the justices one THOS. STANDLEY of ALDERLEY, the most forward of all the refractories. He has dared me and my officers, I am told, to come and distrain, and he would shoot us. This and the like examples, if they pass with impunity, will prove very pernicious. Within these few days it shall be tried what he will do.

I have returned £100 more by Mr. WEBBE of SHREWSBURY, which is to be paid at London on the 1st of August, with the £400 [£300 ?] I returned by him before, payable the same day. The bill of exchange for his £100, I shall send by Leech, the carrier. I hope you have received this day two bills I sent you in my letters this day week ago by Leech. They are for £700, which, with the bill of £300 sent first of all, and this of £100, will make £1,100 of the Shipmoney from CHESHIRE already returned.

To the right Worl'd my worthy good Brother
LAUR. WHITAKER, Esquior, at his house in
Cheswick, theirs.

Let this bee left w'th his s'rvant Mr. Randall
Shenton, att his house in high-Holburne (neere
the K's gate) to be sent to Cheswick."

"Poast not pay'd."

The seal of the writer, of six quarterings, is too indistinct to describe. His arms were "*sable*, an escutcheon between three roses *argent*." Guillim, [*§ Of Baronets*, page 191,] describes them as "*sable* three roses *argent*."

The refractory Thomas Standley was the son of Sir Thomas Stanley, of Alderley and Weaver, a knight of much esteem in his day. Webbe, in *The Vale Royal*, writing about 1620, says of the son that he was "a man like to uphold the worthy accompt of his Ancestors" (fo. ed., pp. 88, 107). Following his namesake Sir Thomas Stanley of Bickerstaff, he took the side of

the Parliament, and engaged himself in its interests in his own neighbourhood, being the associate amongst others of Henry Bradshaw, the brother of Judge Bradshawe. His former life was forgotten or condoned when, on 25th June, 1662, he was made a baronet. He died in the year 1672.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

Stretford, Manchester.

Notes.

[1367] THE HORSEPOOL OF CHESTER ABBEY.

While casually overhauling the other day a bundle of Coroners' Inquisitions taken at Chester in the 16th century, I stumbled on one which seemed of interest sufficient to deserve translating for THE SHEAF. It runs in effect as follows:—

"INQUISITION taken in the Common Hall of Pleas at Chester, before RICHARD GROSVENOR and HAMON GOODMAN, Coroners of the said city, on Thursday after the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, in the 15th year of the reign of King Henry VIII. Upon view of the Body of ROGER LEDSHAM, Keeper of the Great Gate of the Abbey of St. Werburgh' lately drowned in a certain pit, called "The Horse pole," near to the said Gate of the Abbey aforesaid ; and upon the Oath of Hugh Wodward, baker ; Thomas Ince, ironmonger ; Thomas Deane, barber ; Thomas Croghton, barber ; John Gronno, sherman ; Thomas Newton, cook ; William Denall, furrier ; Roger Harrison, baker ; Ralph Bretts, butcher ; Richard Meper, capper ; Robert Walsh, sherman ; John Sparke, capper ; & John Loker, ironmonger.

Who say on their Oath that the said Roger Ledsham, on Thursday, in the vigil of the Circumcision of our Lord in the year aforesaid, was drowned by simple misfortune in the pit called "le horse pole," and so killed on the day abovenamed, by accident and not otherwise. In witness whereof the said Coroners on behalf of the Jurors abovenamed have hereto set their seals. Dated at the City of Chester, the day and year abovesaid.

We learn from this Document that the Hamnet Goodman recorded in the List of Mayors and Sheriffs of Chester as being Sheriff in 1506, was really *Hamon* and not Hamnet. The other Coroner, Richard Grosvenor, was a cadet of the great house of Eaton ; being, I take it, a first cousin of the Richard Grosvenor of Eaton, who married Katherine Cotton of Hamstall Ridware, and was ancestor of the present Duke of Westminster.

It is evident there was a large pond in what we now know as Abbey Square, and close to the Abbey Gate, called the HORSE POOL, in which the Abbot and his numerous visitors were wont to water their steeds. It was in this Pool that poor Richard Ledsham, Keeper of

the Great Gate, and Janitor to the Lord the Abbot, was unfortunately drowned on New Year's Eve, 1523.

In the Chapter Records, I find amongst the Treasurer's Payments in

"1553. August' xvijth. Payd for get-tinge stones out of the horse pole..... jd."

And again, thirty-two years afterwards, as follows:—

"1584. To Hugh Skinner, for the cariage of the filth before the Gate, to fill the hole in ye Courte, viij lodes at ijd. the lode xvjd."

This, I presume, was the end of the Horse Pool, which was manifestly at that date filled up and levelled with the rest of the Abbey Square.

T. HUGHES.

Queries.

[1368] CHESHIRE HOGG PIPES.

What is a "hogg pipe?" In the fragment of a letter from an ancestor of my own in London, preserved in the cover of an old treasure of our family's, Raleigh's *History of the World*, he says,—writing, I fancy, about 1780 (the date is torn away)—"Send me, I beg of you, one of your hogg pipes, which cannot be got any where only in Chester." This is the one solitary allusion of interest in my great grandfather's letter, or I would have sent you a transcript for THE SHEAF.

CAMERO-BRITON.

[1369] TARVIN GARRISON.

TARVIN village was a stand-point coveted alike by Roundhead and Cavalier in the great Civil War. I am acquainted with the notices given in old Edward Burghall's *Providence Improved*, the original MS. of which I once saw and handled in the library of a deceased friend: but it occurs to me that in the parish registers of Tarvin, between the years 1643-50, there would be many references to the garrisons from time to time in possession of the place. There must have been officers or soldiers buried, some perhaps even married, there during its military occupation; and if any one upon the spot would take the trouble to transcribe them literally, I make no doubt the EDITOR would gladly give them a home in his local granary. H. S. A.

Replies.

[1870] THE PUPPET-SHOW EXPLOSION, 1772.

[No. 885.—Nov. 5, 1879.]

Just a year ago, on the 107th anniversary of the above-named terrible local disaster, I gave in THE

SHEAF a copy of the "finding" at the Coroner's Inquest on nineteen of the bodies taken from the ruins (23 died in all, however, from injuries received in the explosion).

I now supplement that contribution with the following extract from the Treasurer's Book of the Corporation of Chester in reference to the catastrophe:—

"1772. Nov. 7. [the day of the Inquest]. Paid 13 Constables, by Mr. Mayors Order, for their Attendance to preserve Order whilst Labourers were searching ye ruins of Eaton's Room for Bodys lost in ye late dreadful Explosion 0 19 6

And to ye Jury for their Trouble in viewing 19 Bodys, & attending ye Inquirys 1 1 0

Nov. 6. Paid 2 Constables by Mr. Mayor's Order for going about ye Town to get ye names of ye persons killed by ye late Explosion, previous to ye Coroner's Inquiry, Summoning Jury, &c.. 5 0 0"

The father of our worthy old fellow-citizen, MAJOR FRENCH, was a boy at school at the time, and boarding with the Rev. Robert Vanbrugh, at the Mainwaring House, in Watergate-street, just opposite to the site of the explosion. The boarders had taken tickets beforehand for the Marionette exhibition, but owing to the sudden illness of the master who was to accompany them, were prevented from attending it. To that happy circumstance we of the present day owe the life-like portrait of a gallant Cestrian now adorning our Town Hall; a work of art which will, long years to come, remind our children of a fine old English gentleman, still I am glad to feel living amongst us, honoured and respected.

T. HUGHES.

[1371] BACHE, OR BUTTER BACHE.

[No. 1333.—Oct. 6.]

I fail to find any basis for the origin of the word, or yet for its application to the various localities named. However, I find a Dutch word "bac" which, according to *Johnson*, means a cup or vessel; reminding me that the "baches" I know of are in close proximity to a hollow.

The BACHE, on the north side of Chester, lies in low ground. The BUTTERBACHE is on a hill, but very close to a hollow, almost level with the river Dee. "COMBERBACH" also seems somewhat to justify my idea. Another Bache is situate near Nantwich and is called BACHE-HOUSE Mill (? Bachehurst), Bache Cover and Bache Pool. The Cover mentioned is very much a favorite with the Cheshire Hunt.

The BACHE near Chester is mentioned in 1093 in the Charter of Randal II., as *Bachia*, where a mill existed at that early period. In the year 1807, the word was similar to the present one. In the first City Bounds taken in 1355, (SHEAF, Vol. I, p. 189), the place is called *Bachepull*; in the second, in 1540, *Baychepools*; and in the Bounds of 1573, *Bachepools*. I have before me an old map of the county entitled "Cestrie Comitatus Romanis Legionibus et Colo'is olim insignis vera

et absoluta descriptio." This is printed across the open pages of a book. The author and engraver are thus described on this old map:—"Christ: Saxton descrip: "Guliel. Hole, sculpait." What is the date of this publication?

In this map the Bache is called *The Baits*; and in another map by *Emanuel Bowen* of last century it is also called *The Baits*.

The Butterbahe, although not so likely to be found in documents as the Bache, occurs in the three perambulations as under—in 1355 "Botherbahe;" in 1540 "butt'r bache;" and in 1573 "butter bache."

J. H.

The etymology of this word is, I fancy, not so very hard to seek. RAY in his *Provincial Glossary*, has the word "Baich," and calls it "a languet of land." The synonym for *languet* is a strap or strip of land, which is probably descriptive of one or more of the many *Baiches* in Cheshire.

But there is a yet more palpable meaning of the word. In Halliwell's *Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words* I find the word "BATCH, a sand-bank, or patch of ground lying near a river;" and this, to my mind, is the true Cheshire application of the term. Newton Brook ran into the Dee just under the Bache, in a sort of bay, and a large portion of the Bache land was once the actual river *beach*. Butterbahe again was another similar bay or inlet of the Dee, on the opposite side of the river to Heron Bridge, and near to the "Red House; while Comberbahe, Swanbach, and Sandbach (Sand-beach) are all instances directly also in point.

G. T.

1372] OLD FONTS AT DORFOLD HALL.

[No. 1344.—Oct. 13.]

A notice appeared in THE SHEAF, as above, about an old "Norman or Semi-Norman" FONT in the flower garden of DORFOLD HALL. There are two old Fonts, of which the more ancient seems to be of the age above-mentioned, and the newer is said to be dated. It is indeed deplorable to see a Norman Font in such a place and condition—black with the exposure and damp of ages, though still sound and capable of restoration.

It is said that this Norman Font was saved from a worse state of desecration at ACTON Vicarage a good while ago; and there is little doubt that it belongs to the Norman portions of ACTON CHURCH, where now for a Font is an incongruous marble bowl.

Both these Fonts may have been in use in this very ancient Church: one of them may have been turned out and profaned when it was held as a fortress in the 17th century. The present ownership of these Fonts makes one sanguine about their recovery to sacred custody and uses. Did the later come from Woodhey?

T. W. N.

[1878] ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE AND NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME.

[No. 1346.—Oct. 13, 1880.]

I remember, years ago, reading a very interesting poem entitled "Perils in the Mine," by "The Parson's Sister." It was generally understood that the writer was a sister of the well-known and much-respected Vicar of a parish near Newcastle, in Staffordshire, and a member of one of our old Cheshire families. The poem deals with a local incident, or rather, perhaps, I should say, tragedy; and as its opening lines I think, in part, form an answer to the query of your correspondent, I send them for THE SHEAF. They are as follows:—

"Our Parsonage stands pleasantly beside the village green,
With the gray old church above it, and a shady lane between;
Before it and around it rise the breezy hills of Lyme,
Which echo back each funeral knell and merry wedding chime."

I ought to add that I quote from memory. The italics are of course mine.

ASHTON, I think, I have always seen written "under-Lyme."

Mow Cop.

G. H.

NOVEMBER 10, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- Nov. 11.—Overchurch, Wirral,—St. Mary's new Church there consecrated by Bishop G. H. Law 1814
- „ 12.—The Rev. William H. Massie, late Rector of St. Mary's, a local antiquary, and founder of the "Chester Archaeological and Historic Society," born 1806
- „ 13.—His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex visited Chester, from Eaton, and was presented with the Honorary Freedom of the city 1832
- „ 14.—Funeral of the Princess Amelia; the great bells of the Cathedral and St. Peter's Church tolled by minutes, and mourning peals were rung at three other Chester Churches 1810
- „ 16.—Christ Church, Maodesfield, consecrated by Bishop Beilby Porteus (afterwards Bishop of London)..... 1772

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1374] A GROSVENOR-SANDFORD SETTLEMENT.

As a fair example of what a Marriage Settlement was like in old Henry the Eighth's days, I offer the following from the muniments of THOMAS H. SANDFORD, Esq., of Sandford, co. Salop. Primarily it is a Shropshire document, but the young lady who was chiefly concerned in its provisions, was a fair daughter of CHESHIRE; being one of the 15 children of RICHARD GROSVENOR, of Eaton, Esq., by Katherine Cotton, of Hamstall Bidware, his wife, to whom I referred last week in my article on "The Horse-Pool of Chester Abbey." Shorn here and there of legal verbiage, the Settlement thus proceeds:—

"THIS ENDENTURE MADE the xxvjth day of Januarie, in the xxxviijth yere of the reign of our son'aigh lord Henry theight, by the grace of god Kyng of Englund, &c., and in erthe sup'me hedde of the Churche of Englund & Ireland, Betwixt THOMAS GRAVENO'R, of EYTON, in the Countie of Chestre, and RICHARD GRAVENO'R, of EMBERRALL, in the Countie of flynt, esquiers, upon thone p'tie, and GEORGE SONDFORD, of Sondford, in the Countie of Salop, esquier, upon thother p'tie, Witnessith

That the said GEORGE SONDFORD hath couen'nted & graunted &c., to & with the said THOMAS GRAVENO'R & RICHARD, that he, the said GEORGE shall make, &c., &c., vnto the said Thomas Graveno'r & Richard Graveno'r &c., before the feast of Seynt Mathewe thappestell next comyng after the Date herof, a good, sure, sufficient & indefeasible estate in the lawe, of & in all that his lands & tenements, &c., in the Townes of STELE & WHIXALL, in the Countie of Salop, with all & singler their app'ten'no's, wherof the issues and p'fettes shall yerely amount vnto the Sum'e of viijl. above all represses, Which now be & late were in tholdyng & occupac'ons of Richard Brayme, Robert Richardson, Roger haywarde, Alen Hogekeyn, John Hanmark, henry Calcott, James Kettell, John Girdleston, fraunces Yorke, Roger Wilkes, Cristofer holford, & Peter Colt.

TO HAVE & to holde the said lands &c, vnto the said Thomas Graveno'r and Richard &c, vntyll thende & t'me of the lif naturall of the said GEORGE SONDFORD, to the vse & behoffe of the said Thomas & Richard &c, &c. Also the said George couen'ntith & graun'tith to & with the said Thomas & Richard &c, that the said lands &c, are at thesamealyng herof clerely discharged of all forme' bargaynes, sales &c, or other enou'br'no's therof hadde & made; and that the said George at the said day is the verray owner of the said lands &c.

And the said THOMAS GRAVENO'R & RICHARD, couen'nt &c, to and with the said GEORGE SONDFORD, that they &c, notwithstanding the said estate before mencyned so to be hadde &c, amountyng to the said viijl. by yere, shall not take &c but onely

the Same of vjli. xiijs. iiijd. by yere of the said lands &c, duryng the lif naturall of JANE SONDFORD, wydowe, graundmother to the said George. And after the decesse of the said JANE, the saids THOMAS GRAVENO'R & RICHARD &c, to haue & enyoie the hool benefite of the said estate of & for the said Sum'e of viijl. duryng the lif of the said George.

P'vyded allwayes that if the said GEORGE SONDFORD & his assignes pay &c, vnto the said THOMAS GRAVENO'R & RICHARD &c, yerely duryng the time aforesaid, that is to witt, in the day & feast of Seynt George the marter iijth vis. viijd. st'lyng, and in the day & feast of Seynt luk the ev'ngelist iijli. vjs. viijd. st'lyng, at the Towne of WHITCHURCH in the p'oche Churche there, betwixt the houres of ix of the clok before none & xij, on anyther of the said dayes,—That then it shalbe lawfull vnto the said GEORGE SONDFORD to haue, occupie, enyoie & holde in his owne possession all the said lands, &c., before by the said estate, &c., graunted: ffor all & singler whiche couen'nts, &c., upon the behalf of the said George Sondford well & truly to be obs'ued, fulfilled, & kept, The said Thomas Graveno'r & Richard Graveno'r, &c., couen'nteth to & with the said George, &c., that they the said Thomas & Richard, or one of them, at all tymes hensforth shall maynteyn, susteyn, & kepe JANE SONDFORD, Wif of the said GEORGE SONDFORD, as well with sufficient meate, drynk, & hir table, as also with sufficient apparell & vestures as app'teyneth for hir degree, upon their owne p'pre Costes & Charges duryng the lif of the said GEORGE; and also to discharge the said George of & for the fyndyng of the said JANE, his wife, and of & for all suche titles, claymes, &c., whiche the said JANE shall requyre and demande towarde hir fyndyng, or any other Charges which the said GEORGE ought to beare or pay of & for his Wif, during the lif of the said George.

And furthermore the said GEORGE SONDFORD couen'ntith, &c., with the said THOMAS GRAVENO'R and RICHARD, &c., that he immediately after the Death of the said JANE SONDFORD his grandmother, at the feasts before mencyned shall pay, &c., vnto the said THOMAS & RICHARD, &c., the Sum'e of viijl. st'lyng, by even poro'ons, in the said Churoh of WHITCHURCHE, at the said two sen'all days before expressed for the payment of the said vjli. xiijs. iiijd. by yere. P'vided always, that if it happen any of the said Sum'es to be vnpaid, &c., That then it shalbe lanfull vnto the said THOMAS GRAVENO'R & RICHARD, &c., into all the said lands to reentre, &c., accordyngs to the purport, teno'r, & effect of the said estate, &c.

P'vided also, and it is further agreed betwixt the said p'ties, that if it happen the said JANE SONDFORD, Wif of the said George, to decesse before the said George hir husband, That then & from thensforth the payment of the said sen'all Sum'es of money before couen'nted to be paid, &c., and en'y p'te thereof beyng not due in hir lif, to succease & noo

forther payment thereof to be made; and the said estate, lye'le & Season, possession, or eny other matter cons'nyng &c., these p'sent ende'tures, &c., in anywise notwithstanding.

And for the true p'formac'on of all and singler the couen'nts, &c., aboue menc'oned, opon eyther of the said p'ties to be p'formed, obs'ued, fulfilled & kept, the same p'ties couen'ten & graunten to be bounden ayther to other by their Wrytyng obligatorie, beryng Date with these p'sents in the Sum'o of one hundreth pounds st'lyng. In Witnes wherof, to these p'sent endentures the p'ties aboue named alt'nately have putto their Sealles the'day & yere abouessaid.

p' me Ric'm GRAVEN'."

A small fragment of an apparently heraldic seal still remains pendent. The document bears date Jan. 28, 1546-7, two days only before King Henry breathed his last.

The two GROSVENORS who were the first parties to the contract were brothers. The elder, Mr. THOMAS GROSVENOR, was knighted very shortly after the execution of the deed, probably on the accession of Edward VI., and was ancestor to the present owner of EATON. The second brother, RICHARD, whose signature appears at the foot of the deed, was Sheriff of Flintshire in 1553; he married Katherine, daughter of Sir Piers Dutton, of Hatton, knt., and widow of Sir ROGER PULESTON, knt., through which alliance he seems to have taken up his abode at EMRAL.

Two sisters of these gentlemen took the veil at Chester: one, ELIZABETH GROSVENOR, being for some time Prioress of St. MARY'S NUNNERY near the Castle. Their brother ANTHONY GROSVENOR's very curious Will (of Dodleston) was printed in Vol. I. of THE SHEAF, p. 294.

Mr. George Sandford was a first cousin of the locally celebrated Captain THOMAS SANDFORD of "the Firelocks." He had no issue by his Cheshire spouse, who survived him, and afterwards remarried with Sir William Hollis, knt. JANE SANDFORD, the "grandmother" named in the Settlement, was eldest daughter of John Dod, of Cloverley, Salop, esq.

The reference in the deed to WHITCHURCH Church revives the memory of an ancient custom,—that of paying annuities, reserved rents, and such like charges, in the porch of the parish church,—a rule often met with in mediæval records of this nature. The reserved rents, &c., due to the Dean and Chapter were payable in the Chapter House, within the precincts of the Cathedral Church.

The "vijlii." settled on the lady seems very small to our eyes, and yet was no doubt amply sufficient for the moderate requirements of those days. A fair scion of the Grosvenors in our times would fare but badly on what had, in Henry VIII.'s days, to "maynteyn, susteyn & kepe JANE SANDFORD."

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1375] PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION OF CHESTER, CITY AND COUNTY.

(Continued from No. 1360.)

2 & 3 Philip and Mary [1555].

Summoned to meet at Westminster, 21 October, 1555.

WILLIHELMUS GERBARD, armiger, de civitate
Cestr' reordator.

WILLIHELMUS ALDERSEY, aldermannus.

Date of their election, 30 September, 1555.

The above are the names given in the Parliamentary Blue Book, whereas Brown Willis, in *Notitia Parliamentaria*, names them as—

WILL. GERBARD.

LAWRENCE SMITH.

Ormerod and Hemingway, on the contrary, give—

RICHARD SNEYD, Recorder.

THOMAS MASSEY, esq.

Sir WILLIAM GERARD, Knt., was Recorder of Chester from 1556 to 1575, and represented Chester in Parliament from this time till his death, which took place May 1, 1581. He was buried in St. Oswald's Church, CHESTER, and left by his wife Dorothy, one of the daughters of Andrew Barton, of Smythills, co. Lancaster, two sons and four daughters.

He was Lord Chancellor of Ireland, one of her Majesty's most honourable council in the Marches of Wales, Justice of Assize within the counties of Glamorgan, Brecknock, and Radnor; one of her Majesty's Masters of Request, as well as Recorder of CHESTER.

His name does not appear in the pedigrees of the Gerards of Brynne or Newton, county of Lancaster, as given in "The Visitation of Lancashire, by Sir William Dugdale, 1664-5," published by the Chetham Society; or in those of the Gerards of Gerards Bromley and Dutton, Riddings, Kingsley, or Crewood, county of Chester.

WILLIAM ALDERSEY, aldermannus.—See Parliament, I. Elizabeth, 1558-9.

4 and 5 Philip and Mary (1557-8).

Summoned to meet at Westminster, 20 January,
1557-8.

LAURENTIUS SMYTHE, miles.

WILLIHELMUS GERBARD, armiger.

Ormerod and Hemingway both give *Thomas Gerrard*, which is clearly a mistake for *William*.

SIR LAWRENCE SMYTH, Knt., was the eldest son of Sir Thomas Smith, Knt., of Hough in Wyburnbury, by his wife, Katherine, daughter of Sir Andrew Brereton, of Brereton; he served the office of Mayor in 1540, 1558, 1568 and 1570; Sheriff of Cheshire in 1553, and was knighted at Leith, 1564; he represented the County

of Cheshire in Parliament, 2 and 3 Philip and Mary, 1555, and died 23 August, 1582, aged 66. Sir Lawrence married, 1st, Anne, daughter of Thomas Fulleshurst, of Crewe, by whom he had issue. His eldest son, Lawrence, was Sheriff of Cheshire in 1587, and died without issue; his other son, Sir Thomas, of Hatherton, was Mayor of the City in 1596, and Sheriff for Cheshire in 1600: he married Anne, daughter of Sir William Brereton, of Brereton, by whom he had issue. His 2nd wife was Jane, daughter of Sir Piers Warburton, of Arley, and widow of Sir William Brereton, of Brereton.

WILLIAM GERARD.—See Parliamt. 2 & 3 Philip and Mary, 1555.

This Parliament sat from the 20th of January, 1557, till the 4th March following, when it was prorogued to the 5th of November, and held till the Queen's death on the 17th.

1 Elizabeth, 1558-9.

Summoned to meet at Westminster, 23 January, 1558-9. Dissolved 8 May, 1559.

The names given in the Parliamentary Blue Book, are,

SIR LAWRENCE SMITH, Knt.

WILLIAM GERARD, Esq.

Date of Election 16 January, 1558-9.

Browne Willis, Ormerod and Hemingway, all state on the contrary,

SIR THOMAS VENABLES, Kt.

WILLIAM ALSCHER.

SIR LAWRENCE SMITH, Kt.—See Parliamt. 4 & 5 Philip and Mary, 1557-8.

WILLIAM GERARD, Esq.—See Parliamt. 2 & 3 Philip and Mary, 1555.

5 Elizabeth (1562-3).

Summoned to meet at Westminster 11 January, 1562-3. Dissolved 2 January, 1566 7.

WILLIAM GERARDE, Esq.

JOHN YERWORTH, Esq.

WILLIAM GERARDE, Esq.—See Parliamt. 2 & 3 Philip and Mary, 1555.

JOHN YERWORTH, Esq., was Sheriff of Chester in 1558, but does not appear to have occupied the civic chair. He was Clerk of the Pentice, but executed the office by deputy. Buried at St. Peter's Church, Chester, 29th April, 1587.

13 Elizabeth, 1571.

(2 April, 1571, to 29 May, 1571.)

This Parliament is mentioned by Browne Willis, Ormerod, and Hemingway, but does not appear in the Parliamentary Blue Book.

WILLIAM GERARD, Esq.

WILLIAM GLASOUR, Esq.

Browne Willis, in his "*Notitia Parliamentaria*," referring to this Parliament, says, it "began April 2, 1571, and lasted to May 29 following, when it was dissolved."

This list, and also those of 27th and 35th of this reign, being all three wanting in the Rolls Chapel, were happily supplied from the collections of the late Peter le Neve, Esq., Norroy King at Arms.

WILLIAM GERARD, Esq.—See Parliamt. 2 & 3 Philip and Mary, 1555.

WILLIAM GLASOUR, Esq., of Lea, near Backford, Chester, was the eldest son of William Glasour, who is supposed to have been a native of the Isle of Man; but must have been settled in Chester or neighbourhood for some time, as he was elected Sheriff of the City in 1537, and occupied the Civic Chair in 1551.

He was Vice Chamberlain of Chester in 1, 11, 12, 17, and 22 Elizabeth; and, on the dissolution of the Chester Abbey, the manor and whole township of LEA were granted, along with WHITBY and OVERPOOL, to WILLIAM GLASIOR, Esq., and John Glasior, gent., by letters patent, dated 30th Nov., 22 Eliz., subject to a fee farm rent. In 1573, there was a controversy between the city and the Vice Chamberlain; when Mr. William Glasior, Mr. William Aldersey, alderman, and John Aldersey, his son, were disfranchised and put from their aldermen's rooms, but were afterwards reinstated. He was buried at St. JOHN's Church, Chester, Sept. 12, 1619.

14 Elizabeth (1572).

Summoned to meet at Westminster 8 May, 1572. Dissolved 9 April, 1583.

WILLIAM GERARDE, Esq.

WILLIAM GLASOUR, Esq.

Elected 21st April, 1572.

WILLIAM GERARD, Esq.—See Parliamt. 2 & 3 Philip and Mary, 1555.

WILLIAM GLASOUR, Esq.—See Parliamt. 13 Elizabeth, 1572.

Ledsham.

R. M.

Queries.

[1376 CHESHIRE SOULERS AND SOULING.]

I do not recollect that the SOULING subject has been discussed in your columns. If it has not, you may like to start it by giving insertion to the present scrap.

The custom prevails in this town extensively. The children go round to the houses early and late on All Saints' (not All Souls') Day, and chaunt monotonously a doggerel. The lines vary a little with the groups of children, which usually consist of from three to six or seven. The most complete version I can give you is as follows:—

"Soul! soul! a Soul-cake!

Good mistress; gi' us a soul-cake:

One for Peter; one for Paul;

And one for Them [*sic*] as made us all.

An apple or a cherry
Or anything good to make us merry !
Go ! good mistress ! to the cellar ;
And fetch us a pail of water.
[probably a modern improvement ?]
It is a good fame
To get a good name.
Soul ! soul ! " &c., &c. *Da capo, ad libitum.*

It would be interesting to learn what variations are found in other places ?

Malpas,

W. T. KENYON.

All Saints' Day, 1880.

P.S.—There have just been souling here three middle-aged men with a concertina, singing a really sweet chaunt to other words, which I have not yet got accurately. But they begin with what would appear to be some good old rhymes relating to the subject of the day. They end, however, with some very bad verses about ale and strong beer, which (they sing) is all they soul for. Like some other customs, this must be regenerated or perish.

W. T. K.

[1877] CAPTAIN JONES, OF THE FLINTSHIRE
MILITIA.

Who was this worthy, who I find from a memorandum in an old diary, of about seventy years ago, miraculously escaped death in falling from a cliff on the southern coast ? If, as I suppose, he was a Flintshire man, some particulars of him and of his disaster will not be out of place in THE CHESHIRE SHEAF. CAMBRO-BRITON.

[1878] BURGANEY'S MS. POEMS.

In Nichols' *Literary Anecdotes*, reference is made to a MS. volume of Poems, bearing a long Greek title, the composition of WILLIAM BURGAYNIE, of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and a native of PULFORD, near Chester, where his ancestors and descendants were settled for many generations. The last representative of the race, Miss Burganey, I remember often meeting in your Chester Rows some forty years ago, and I think I have heard she was in her youth a great horse-woman, and well known in the Cheshire hunting field.

But my object in troubling you to-day is to enquire what has become of this Cheshire MS. Volume, which early in this century was in the Collection of Michael Wodhull, Esq., the translator of *Euripides* ?

Stockport.

MARY O. LATRY.

Replies.

[1879] THOMAS BATESON, ORGANIST OF
CHESTER CATHEDRAL.

[Nos. 1175, 1264, 1311.—June 9, Aug. 11, Sept. 15.]

From the Treasurers' Annual Accounts of the Dean and Chapter of Chester, I have gleaned the few notices

following, illustrative of Mr. BATESON and of the instrument on which he performed, during his residence in Chester as Organist at the Cathedral :—

- "1601. Dec. 12.—Paid to Mr. Bateson for ye new Organ Booke belonging to o'r Quier..... xls. "
1602. Nov. 3.—For a Sheep skynne to mende ye Bellowes of ye Organs " vjd.
- " Nov. 3.—For neiles & small ribbes of wodd for ye said Bellowes " iijd.
- " Nov. 3.—To Beedle & his man for two dayes & half about ye Organs..... iijjs. "
- " Nov. 17.—For a little Deake for Mr. Bateson his Organ booke vjs. "
- 1604.—To Mr. Bateson, ye 12th of Nove', allowed vnto him by the Chapter xxjs. "
- 1606.—To Mr. Bateson for booke to the Quire xijjs. iijjd."

It will be seen from the first of the above entries that Mr. BATESON's appointment dated back certainly one year beyond that I had indicated in my original list. I have no doubt now, therefore, that the Editor of the *Dictionary of Music & Musicians* was quite correct in saying that BATESON was appointed to the Cathedral in 1599.

I have, in my Collection of Cheshire Books, an original copy of BATESON's *First Set of Madrigals*, reprinted a generation ago by the Musical Antiquarian Society.

T. HUGHES.

[1880] BURT THE PORTRAIT PAINTER.

[No. 1204.—June 30.]

I have in my collection an etching of a full length Portrait of "RICHARD ROBERT JONES," as a frontispiece to a memoir of him written by WILLIAM ROSCOE the Historian, and writer of the lives of Leo the Tenth, Lorenzo de Mediciis, and other works. I send you a copy of the title page herewith, where you will see the name of BURT as the engraver, which may answer your Query No. 1204.

Having many anecdotes of the famous linguist in my possession, I purpose writing a more extended life of "ABERDARON"; who, after the death of Mr. Roscoe, became a pensioner of mine. I made him an allowance of half-a-crown a week as long as he lived; and, during that time, he wrote for me a history of his own life, as well as some translations in Hebrew and Greek.

I wish you all success with your valuable CHESHIRE SHEAF !

JOSEPH MAYER, F.S.A.

Pennant House, Bebington.

NOVEMBER 17, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Nov. 17.—Three felons escaped out of the Castle Gaol at Chester. Two of them retaken in St. Olave's lane, after a desperate resistance	1782
„ 18.—The Rev. Henry Raikes, M.A., by Letters Patent from Bishop Sumner, appointed Chancellor of the Diocese of Chester	1830
„ 19.—Chester placed under martial law, in consequence of the approach of the Rebels under the "Young Pretender"	1745
„ 20.—Idenshaw Manor surrendered by the Dean of Chester, under compulsion, to Sir B. Cotton	1550
„ 21.—Order of Assembly issued, through the Mayor of Chester, for the prevention of Idleness	1512
„ 22.—Earl Cholmondeley created Earl of Rock Savage and Marquis of Cholmondeley	1815

J. H.

Original Documents.**[1881] BUNBURY PARISH BOOKS.**

I beg to offer for insertion in *THE SHEAF* a few extracts from the Churchwardens' Accounts in the parish of BUNBURY. The extracts were made many years ago by the Rev. JOHN MARTIN, the then Vicar, and I have selected from his MS. what I am now sending to you. Though 1656 is the earliest date of his extracts, I do not know that it is the earliest date to which the accounts go back, but some day I may perhaps be able to examine the books myself.

The first item, in these days of school capitation grants, sounds somewhat ominous:—

£ s. d.
"1656. Paid for 253 urohins heads..... 2 2 3"

But taking urohins to mean hedgehogs, we need only be surprised that hedgehogs were so numerous in BUNBURY two hundred years ago.

The second item, seeing that the Puritans were still in authority, is also somewhat remarkable:—

"1656. Spent in ale after sermon 0 1 0"

While copying the entries in the Books, nothing struck me as more astonishing than the number of occasions found in the olden days for spending parish money in drink!

"1659. Paid Richard Nickson for making the church cleane after the prisoners went out..... 0 7 0"

In Green's "Short History of the English People," under the date 1659, the rising of Sir George Booth, who furnished these prisoners, is thus alluded to. "In spite of Vane's counsels, a reform of the officers was at once proposed; and though a Royalist rising in CHESHIRE under Sir GEORGE BOOTH threw the disputants for a moment together, the struggle revived as the danger passed away." Hallam also, in his *Constit. Hist.* I., 694, says—"Sir George Booth, almost alone, rose in Cheshire." Entries in the Church books of Cheshire, of the prisoners in the Churches during the Civil War, are, I imagine, not uncommon; but the year before the Restoration was a late date for this employment of the sacred buildings, and no doubt helped to account for the expression of feeling manifested in the parish the next year.

"1659. Paid for a Communion Table and carriage 1 9 6"

This item also serves to throw into strong contrast the following:—

"1660. Paid for the King's Arms..... 13 0 0
Paid the Ringers when the King entered England 0 10 0"

Nothing can better express the reality of BUNBURY men's loyalty than this large and immediate outlay for the King's Arms. £13 Os. Od., at the date of the Restoration, would represent a startling sum in the parish accounts of 1880.

The 10s., too, given to the ringers, in such a remote county as CHESHIRE, for ringing on the King's landing at Dover, amply bears out Lord Macaulay's description of the almost delirious joy with which the King was received by those who actually saw him set foot again on English soil.

Frequent entries now follow of help to distressed ministers, presumably those ejected on St. Bartholomew's day, 1682:—

"1663. Paid to Mr. Alston, a distressed minister 0 1 0

1672. Given to Mrs. Allen, who had a Braife, her husband being formerly a minister, but now melancholy and almost distracted ... 0 3 0

1684. Believed 3 ministers' widows 0 1 0

1685. Given to a travelling minister y^t taught at ye Church one afternoon 0 1 6

1727. Given to a Foreign Prince by the Gentlemen's orders..... 0 10 0"

I insert this magnificent item among the humbler sums bestowed upon the distressed ministers, or their widows, merely by way of contrast. I wonder who the Foreign Prince was who condescended to accept 10s. from the BUNBURY Church rates? He ought not to have been left anonymous, as I should think that his case is unique.

We now come to items which apparently concern the treating and entertainment of the clergy, as distinct from their relief. But in passing, I notice one entry, of which no explanation is offered, though one seems to be needed:—

"1669. Pay'd for Liquor for the Clookes and Bells..... 0 1 0"

Does this mean that the "Clookes and Bells" drank the liquor, as the idol Bel, in the History of Bel and the Dragon, ate daily the 12 great measures of fine flour, and the 40 sheep, and drank the 6 vessels of wine? Or does it mean that the "Clookes and Bells" merely represented the Clocksmith and Bell-ringers, as Daniel clearly proved that the appetite of the idol only represented that of his priests and their wives and children? Or again, does the 'Liquor' mean oil and not ale?

"1678. Spent upon Mr. Meeke when he preached here 0 0 6
1685. Spent with a strange Parson 0 0 6
1693. Spent upon Mr. Boydell, our new Parson 0 0 6"

This seems illiberal, as the expenditure on a newly instituted Preacher of BUNBURY is no greater than that on a strange Parson eight years before, and only half what the next entry records as being spent on another strange minister six years afterwards:—

"1699. Spent in treating a strange minister 0 1 0
1703. Spent on 13 Parsons that came to preach when Mr. Porter was sick 2 10 6"

This we may imagine to represent the entertainment of each minister for the whole Sunday; though, even then, 8s. 10d. does not seem extravagant.

"1805. To Liquor when Mr. Egerton preached the first time..... 0 5 0"

In 1693 the sum spent in liquor on the new Parson was only 6d., and now it is 5s.. I can only hope that my great Uncle's discourses were not proportionately dry.

Burwash Rectory, Sussex. J. C. E.
(To be completed in our next.)

Notes.

[1382] JUDGE BRADSHAW.

On a fly-leaf in Vol. 4 of *The Spectator* for the year 1720, in my possession, is the following MS. note:—

"Mem'd'm. JUDGE BRADSHAW, that tried King Charles the first, was born, & his posterity now lives, at MARPLE, 5 miles from STOFFORD, in Cheshire. 1720."

Posterity the Cheshire regioide had none: it was his brother HENRY BRADSHAW who carried down the line until it ultimately merged, through a female, in the family of ISHERWOOD, now of Marple Hall.

Bromborough. J. R. W.

[1383] OWEN GLYNDWR'S REVOLT.

[Concluded from No. 1313.]

Resuming the story where we left it a few weeks ago,—it is pretty evident that this war with GLYNDWR was not hailed with any great satisfaction or unanimity by the nation, especially by those whose landed estates were at all near to the seat of the rebellion. But their loyalty was not suffered to remain very long in doubt. Many of the latter held their estates by the tenure of aiding their King in his troubles from time to time with the implacable Welsh foe: so, *volens volens*, these apparently timid gentry were summoned to shew themselves with their retainers in the very teeth of the enemy. Thus, in

"1403-4. Henry, Prince of Wales, issued his mandate to THOMAS LE GROSVENOR, knight, commanding the said Thomas to hasten to his possessions at PULFORD, CHURCHMAN-HETH, and elsewhere in the marches of Wales, there to make defence against the enemy under OWEN GLYNDWR: in conformity with the Order in Council enacting that, on the occasion of war against the King and Kingdom of England, all those who held possessions in the marches nearest to the enemy, should take up their abode there for the protection of the realm [4 & 5 Henry IV., m. 4 (1).]"

The like mandate was also issued at the same time to other Cheshire squires, viz., Peter de Dutton, kt. William de Egerton, Lawrence Pyton, knight, &c., to hasten to their possessions in the marches of Wales, The border estates, by virtue of owning which these local worthies were called upon to do this essential homage, can yet be pointed out on the Cheshire margin of the Principality.

Month followed month, and still the war went fitfully on. The lords of the soil thereabout indeed must have been pretty much in the condition of the Irish landlords of to-day, to whom rent from their estates has become very much a matter of history. As in the sister isle too now, there were not wanting traitors in our own locality then, ready to deal a little in contraband of war. MALPAS, and I am afraid I must add CHESTER, were two of these unpatriotic places, as we may gather from the following, under date

"1404, July 17. Writ of Henry, Prince of Wales, to the Mayor and Sheriffs of Chester, to prohibit the sale of arms or merchandise to the rebels, and the exportation of the same to the town of Malpas, or any foreign market at which the said rebels assembled [4 & 5 Hen. IV., m. 8 d. (4).]"

Following up this Writ two months afterwards, the Prince issues, Oct. 14, 1406,

"Commissions to Richard de Manley, Ralph de Dutton, Richard de Cholmondeley, Thomas de Conewey, Nicholas le Parker, William de Shavyngton, junr., John Donne of Utkynton, Henry de Davenport, and Henry de Spurstowe, to seize all provisions and merchandise brought to the town of Malpas, or

Marches of Wales to be sold, together with the men bringing the same, the Prince having been informed that large quantities of merchandise and provisions were being sold to the rebels, contrary to proclamation." [6 and 7 Hen. IV., m. 1 (3-5).]"

The game of hide and seek between Glyndwr and Prince Henry went languidly on, the latter's "masterly inactivity" gradually starving the Welshmen into submission. At the end of 1406, orders arrive for the immediate provisioning of the Castles of Flint and Rhuddlan, and a few days later, viz. on

"Feb. 17, 1406. John de Hawarden, armiger, is commissioned by the Prince to seize all provisions going to Wales for the support of the rebels. [7 & 8 Hen. IV., m. 2 (1).]"

And now we see the beginning of the end. The starved-out Welshmen one by one lose heart in their cause; and numerous instances occur, in the records, of their more prominent men giving in their submission to the conqueror. A few instances will suffice for our purpose:—

"1407, Sept. 12. Protection granted to Howel ap Tud', by Henry Prince of Wales, on his coming from Flint to Chester, with one servant and two horses, to speak with the Council of the Prince [7 & 8 Hen. IV., m. 4 d. (8).]"

Three months afterwards, having meanwhile made full submission, on

"Dec. 3, 1407. Howel ap Tud' does fealty, & gives sureties for his appearing at the next Session at Flint to receive judgment for his rebellion, &c. [8 & 9 Hen. IV., m. 1 d. (6).]"

The same day, Grono ap Res ap Ithell goes through the same humiliating ceremony. Five days later, the back of the rebellion having been now broken, the olive branch appears in the following

"Commission from Prince Henry to the Lord Gilbert Talbot, Justice of North Wales, Thomas Barnaby, Chamberlain, Roger Bolton, Steward and Receiver of Denbigh, & Jankyn Hokes, Deputy Constable of Flint Castle, to administer Pardon to all rebels in Denbigh, Dyffreneluyt, and the county of Flint, who should be desirous to receive grace for their rebellion. [8 & 9 Hen. IV., m. 9 d. (2).]"

One of the unhappy results of the unequal struggle is plainly seen in the following,

"Grant, Oct. 16, 1409, to Robert Lancaster, Abbot of the Monastery of Valle Crucis and Bishop elect of St. Asaph, of the custody of the temporalities of the Bishopric (collation to Benefices excepted) in aid of the repairs of the Cathedral of St. Asaph, wholly burnt and destroyed by the Welsh rebels. [10 and 11 Hen. IV., m. 1 (7, 8).]"

OWEN GLYNDWR, personally unsubdued, remained in his mountain fastnesses inaccessible, until his death in the 61st year of his age; when a treaty was effected on the 24th of February, 1416, with MEREDYDD ap OWEN, his son, and Peace was restored after an indecisive struggle of more than 15 years.

Curzon Park.

HENRY TAYLOR.

Queries.

[1884] HARGRAVE SCHOOL AND CHAPEL.

These were founded, I understand, in the year 1627, by Sir THOMAS MOULSON, an alderman of the City of London, and a native of the township. He became later in life Lord Mayor of London, but I am unaware when or where he died, or where he lies buried? Will you ask your correspondents of THE SHEAF to look this matter up a little, and report?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[1885] WHAT IS A PRINT?

This question was discussed in *Notes and Queries* a few months ago, and the conclusion arrived at was that the term referred to a picture. I observe that in the *Chester Courant* the other day the *Chronicle* is referred to as a "Radical Print;" and a few weeks back *Eddowes's Shrewsbury Journal* alluded to the *Oswestry Advertiser* in the same terms. Is the term a correct one, and applicable to Liberal and Conservative papers alike? Or is it used in connection with the Liberal organs only, and that locally?

Oswestry, Oswestry.

A. R.

[1886] DICK BACH, THE WELSH TOM THUMB.

When, during last week, the Australian Tom Thumb and Commodore Knott (rather too close a parody, to my thinking, of the American Tom Thumb and Commodore Nutt of a dozen years ago) were disporting themselves to moderate audiences in the Chester Music Hall, I was accidentally present at one of the performances. Sitting near me were an old Welshman and his spouse (who had seen some eighty summers or even more), and who had no idea that somebody near them had made Welsh a study, and was taking in all they had to say. The old man was loud in his praises of the Dwarfs; but the old lady silenced him at last with the exclamation in fervid Cymraeg—"Don't be a fool, David! These brats are nothing to our own Dick and Mary Bach; who used to walk under mother's dresser at Cwmmain, as she scores of times told you and me in our early days. Don't be a fool, I tell thee!"

What about these Welsh undergrowths? Were they ever publicly exhibited, and where can I learn some particulars of them?

H. S. A.

[1887] WOOD'S SHORTHAND, CHESTER, 1863.

I should be glad to hear of a copy of the above stenographic work, which was published at Chester, about the year 1863, under the following title:—

"Pin Yr Ysgrifenydd Buan'. Llawlyfr Sainysgrif, sef Hyfforddwr. Ymarferol at Ddysgu. Llawfer Gymraeg A Saesonaeg. Gan T. CADIVOR WOOD, Argraphiad Cymraeg."

It was printed by W. F. & M. Healey, City Printing Office, Princess-street, Chester. Who was Mr. Wood, the author?

Stretford, Manchester.

J. E. BAILEY.

Replies.

[1888] EGBERTON, A CHESHIRE NAME.

[No. 86.—June 12, 1878.]

It has been my good fortune, during the present term of my residence here, to attend the Lectures delivered on Anglo-Saxon by Professor SKEAT, one of the ablest philologists of the day. In the course of a conversation with him, I remembered having seen the above query in the pages of *THE SHEAF*; so asked his opinion as to the derivation of the word. He says it is undoubtedly of Anglo-Saxon origin, from the suffix "ton,"—and he fancies that EGER was the name of the founder and first owner of the hamlet where EGBERTON now stands, and that his descendants took their name from their old English ancestor.

Cambridge.

T. CANN HUGHES.

[1889] MANORIAL COURT ROLLS.

[No. 1055.—March 3.]

At the above reference I ventured an expression of regret that an Original Roll of Fines, &c., for the Manors, &c., of Goostrey, Cranage, and other Cheshire Townships, bearing date 1611, should be bandied about, for want of an owner, in a London old bookseller's catalogue. I rejoice now to be able to say that the document in question has been rescued from its peril, and has passed into the appreciative hands of our valued correspondent, Mr. JOHN E. BAILEY, of Stretford, who will no doubt some day make good use of it historically.

T. HUGHES.

[1890] OLIVER CROMWELL'S SWORD.

[Nos. 1196, 1302.—June 23, Sept. 8.]

DINTON Manor House, Bucks, still held by the *Tenure* of Oliver Cromwell's "*Naseby Sword*," was the home of Simon Mayne, the Regicide. CROMWELL stayed there while KING CHARLES was at Oxford; and here in a cave dwelt James Bigge, his clerk, who became celebrated as "The Dinton Hermit," and who, according to local tradition, was the actual person who cut off King Charles's head! He died in 1696; by which time his garment (for he had only one) had become an extraordinary piece of patchwork; and his shoes made up of a thousand pieces of leather from constant mending:—one of them is still preserved at the Manor House, the other is in the Bodleian Library at Oxford. In a secret room in the roof of the house, which could only be approached by raising three steps of the staircase, and crawling up a trough lined with

flannel, Simon Mayne was concealed until, being all but starved, he was obliged to give himself up. The room, which, as described to me, was also lined with flannel, contained only a table and two chairs. Some of the original building, erected, it is said, in the time of Edward the Confessor, is retained in the present structure.

After Simon Mayne, Dinton came into possession of Vanhetem, Aide-de-camp of William III. on his landing in England, and remained in that family for many generations. It has now passed by marriage into the family of Goodall.

Sir John Vanhetem, and his sister, my great grandmother, being the last of that name, were the heirs, and nephew and niece, of Lydia Catherine Vanhetem; who married Sir Thomas Davall, of Greys in Essex (the Royal and favourite Palace of Henry VIII. and Anne Boleyn), and afterwards became the third wife of "The Princely Chandos."

I have several interesting relics from Dinton and Greys.

Clifton.

ELIZABETH ANTONIA LECHE.

[1891] BACHE, AND BUTTERBACHE.

[Nos. 1333, 1371.—Oct. 6, Nov. 3.]

The word "*Bache*," singly, or in such connexions as *Sandbach*, *Blew Bache* in Newhall, *The Bache House*, &c., is common enough in Cheshire. The present writer has been accustomed to correlate it with the ordinary English *Beck* (a brook), Anglo-Saxon *Becc*, Dutch *Beck*, and German *ack*. This reference seems obvious, and partly justified by such names as *Bache Poole*; but it may be wrong. It might assist the inquiry to make a list of all the *Baches* that can be found in Cheshire; with brief descriptions, in few words, of their localities, with the several conditions of their situation.

Wrenbury.

T. W. N.

ORMEROD, our county historian, in his description of the BACHE, in Broxton Hundred, refers to the Bache Hall in the following terms:—

"It is pleasantly situated on a gentle rise at the distance of one mile from Chester, and is environed with respectable timber. Below the house is a rocky valley, from which the township derives its name; and through which a small brook passes, which formerly joined the estuary below, in a part which is now protected from the waters by the Dee embankment."

MR. ORMEROD refers in a foot note to WHITTAKER'S *Glossary to Piers Plowman*, relative to

"*Bache*, the Saxon denomination of a valley. It has been supposed to be derived from the British adjective *Bach*, little, which is incompatible with its ancient appellation "*la Bache*," still preserved in the present usual name, '*the beach*.'"

No Chester native ever speaks of it otherwise: it is always "*the Bache*," "*the Bache Pool*," "*the Butter-bache*," "*the Bache Hall*," &c.

L. L.

NOVEMBER 24, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- Nov. 24.—Rhuddlan Parish Church reopened, after Restoration under the direction of the late Sir Geo. Gilbert Scott, R.A. 1869
- „ 25.—Hugh Cholmondeley, of Vale Royal, Dean of Chester, died 1815
- „ 27.—St. Peter's Church, Delamere, consecrated by Bishop G. H. Law 1817
- „ 28.—Lady Elizabeth Grosvenor, sister to the Duke of Westminster, married to Beilby Richard Lawley, second Baron Wenlock 1846
- „ 30.—Alarm of "Fire!" raised in the Theatre at Chester,—a great number of people severely bruised 1801

J. H.

Original Documents.**[1892] WERVIN CHURCH, CHESHIRE.**

The manor and tithes of WERVIN belonged to the Abbey of St. Werburgh at Chester, from at all events the date of Hugh Lupus' Charter in 1093. There was a Chapel there from very early times, the services at which were conducted by priests detached from time to time for that duty by the Abbot: and, when this and other manors were handed over at the Reformation to the newly-appointed DEAN AND CHAPTER of Chester Cathedral, the presentation to the cure of WERVIN, and the responsibility for occasional services there, fell to the new body of rulers so created by King Henry VIII.

OSMEROD (*Hist. Cheshire*, vol. ii., p. 424, first edition) says that WERVIN passed from the Dean and Chapter into the hands of Sir RICHARD COTTON. But it would appear from the following fragment of a Document, remaining among the Chapter muniments, that it had been previously leased for sixty-one years, in 1552, to a personal servant of DEAN CLIFFE's:—

"TIETH OF WERVYN.

This Indenture made the xvth daie of October, in the vth yere of the reigne of o'r soueraigne Lorde Edwarde the sixt, by the grace of god King of Englande, france, and Ireland, defender of the faith, and erthe supreme heade of the church of Englande and Ireland. Betwene Mr. WILLM CLIFF, doctor of lawe, Deane of the cath'l church of christ and o'r blessed lady the virgyn in Chester, and the chapter of the same place upon thone p'tie, and TRISTRAM SWADAILL of the citie of ches't'r, yoman, on thother p'tie,

Witnesseth y't the said Deane and chapter, by ther one hoolle assent & full consent haue demysed, graunted, set, let, and to ferme betaken, and by thes p'ts for them and their successors doo demyse, graunt, set, let and to ferme betake vnto the said TRISTRAM SWADAILL, all that their tythe barne of WYRVEN, in the Countie of Chester, w'th the site of the same and all maner of teythes, cornes, grayne and haye, and all man' grownde, liberties, rights s'uices, customes, comodities, and profettes to the same tythe barne of WYRVEN app'teyninge or in any wyse belonging, or heretofore at any time used and accustomed to be had, taken & p'ceyed, in the name of the said Church of WYRVEN; together with the reuersion of the same barne and tythes of cornes and haye, and all other thapp'ten'hoes in WYRVEN foresaid, w'th free ingate, owigate, and liberall passage, as well for cartes, waynes, and horses, as for folke on foote to and from the said barne, & other the p'mis's at all tymes. And also all, and all maner of small tythes, white tythes, obla'cons, obventions, alterage, and other emolument's of the said Church of WYRVEN what soeu' they be or shalbe, or of what condio'on, nature, kynde, qualitey, or name soeu' they be called, rekened, or reputed.

To haue, hold, occupie, & inioye the said tythe barne of WYRVEN, w'th all tythes of cornes and haye, &c., from the date herof vnto the full ende and terme of three schore & one yeres then nex and Imedyatlie folowinge, fullie to be complete, ended, & determyned. Yelding & payeng therefor yerelye vnto the said Deane & Chapter, ther successors & assignes, or vnto their generall Receyvor for the tyme being, within the precincts of the cathedrall church, seven powndes sixtene shilling of usual money of Englande, That ys to wit, for the said tythe barne, cornes, and haye, vij*l*., and for the said small teythes, obla'cons, obventions, and othe p'mis's, xv*js*., at the feste of the nativite of saincte John Baptist and saint Martyne in wynter, by equall por'cons.

And the said TRISTRAM SWADAILL dothe coven'nt for him and his assignes to and w'th the said Dean & Chapter and their successors, That yf yt happen the said yerelie rent of vij*l*. xv*js*. to be behynde vnpayed, in part or in all, by the space of fortie daies next after any of the said feste at which yt ought to be payed, being lawfully ask'd; than yt shalbe leafull vnto the said Deane & chapter, &c., into the said barne, tythe cornes, &c., to reentre, &c. And the said Deane & chapter do coven'nte, &c., yerelie to fynde, support, repayre, and maintayne the said tythe barne of WYRVEN foresaid in all man' of reparao'ons to the same, &c., during all the said terme of yeres.

In witness whereof to thone p't of thes Indentures w'th the said Tristram Swadail remaininge, the said Deane & chapter haue sette their chapter seale; and to thother p'te of the same Indentures w'th the said Deane & Chapter remayninge the said Tristram Swadail hath putte his seale. Yeven the daie & yere first aboue written."

Beneath is the signature, in curious monogram,
 "TRISTRAM SWADAILL."

This TRISTRAM SWADAILL was appointed, three years previous to the date of the above Document, to be "Custodian of the Abbey Gate," in succession to, and on the vacating thereof by, JOHN COWPER, the then present Custodian, Oct. 23, 1549. By another Lease, "EDWARD PLANKNEY, gent'n, and TRISTRAM SWADAILL, servant to Dean Cliff," are granted 21 years interest in "the Long Meadow" at Moston from the Dean and Chapter at 53s. 4d. rent. PLANKNEY was probably son or brother of the MORYSON PLANKNEY of Chester, who obtained possession, from Thomas Lord Cromwell, of Bishop Fisher's valuable Library, as detailed in THE SHEAF, No. 894, for Nov. 9, 1879.

EDITOR.

[1393] BUNBURY PARISH BOOKS.

(Concluded from No. 1381.)

BUNBURY parish seems to have taken a lively interest in general politics, if we may judge by the sums allowed for ringing the bells on various public occasions. We have already given the entry of payment of 10s. for ringing for the King's landing at Dover, and now we find under the date

"1683. Given to ye Ringers, Sept. 9, being a day of reioycing for the discovery of the Plott against his Ma'tie..... 0 1 6"

The Rye House Plot for murdering King Charles II. and his brother as they passed the Rye House on their way from London to Newmarket. It was for a supposed share in this plot that Lord Russell and Algernon Sidney were unjustly beheaded.

"1691. Given to the ringers for ringing for joy that Limerick was delivered 0 3 0"

In what sense the good Churchwardens used the word delivered, I cannot guess, unless in the sense of being delivered over to the English. The joy, doubtless, was that of knowing that the capitulation of Limerick settled, once and for all, the question of Protestant supremacy in Ireland.

Again, we have the national feeling reflected in the following item:—

"1697. Given to ye Ringers for ringing for joy of peace 0 5 0"

The peace concluded at Byswick, a small village near the Hague, in South Holland—that peace which was "the final and decisive defeat of the conspiracy which had gone on between Louis and the Stuarts ever since the Treaty of Dover,—the conspiracy to turn England into a Roman Catholic country, and into a dependency of France.

"1712. (Probably an error in copying the extract,) Given the ringers for ringing for Dr. Sacheverill 0 2 0"

Impeached, but practically acquitted, for boldly maintaining, in a sermon at St. Paul's, the doctrine of

non-resistance. Bonfires and illuminations over the whole country welcomed the result of the trial as a Tory triumph.

Among miscellaneous entries I find one which we are thankful will never recur:—

"1681. Spent in collecting the fines of Absentees from Church..... 0 17 0"

The national feeling among the upper and middle classes during this year ran very high in favour of the Throne and the Church, and the Puritans were suspected of disaffection to both; hence, probably, this revival of the laws against Nonconformity.

But to pass to less serious topics:—

"1701. N.B. Twopence per dozen allowed for sparrows heads.

1723. Spent when we reared ye Church Ladder up to ye commandments 0 0 9

1724. Paid for a silk Hood for Mr. Lowe 1 15 6"

By the terms of the endowment the Preacher of Bunbury must be a Master of Arts.

"1726. Given the ringers for carrying one big Lather (ladder) home, in ale 0 0 4

1730. P'd John Dod for clouting ye hearse 0 1 0"

"Clouting," mending. "So the Gibeonites went to Joshua (*Josh.* ix. 5), having old shoes and clouted upon their feet."

"1731. P'd Richard Penington for whipping dogs, & cobbing sleeping Folke... 0 10 0"

"Cobbing," knocking on the head. This singular aid to devotion continued in full force in ACTON Church till within, I believe, the last fifty years; the church-walker, or "awakener" as I am told he is called in the books of the parish of TARBOLLEY, being about that time, as I have understood, one John Brodie. I myself remember as a child, in a church in Essex, a terrible struggle between sleep and fear of the "awakener," in which sleep triumphed, and I was "cobbed" accordingly. By our parish books in Sussex, the sexton received the same annual fee for "whipping disorderly boys or dogs,"—the "cobbing," however, not being part of his duty. [See CHESHIRE SHEAF, Nos. 1147, 1181.]

"1732. Spent at a parish meeting about the Sackstone (query, Sexton)... 0 2 0

1735. Spent viewing Ch. Wardens seat, in in order to sell it..... 0 1 0

1745. Paid to Mark Topin for a book concerning ye disorder of cattle ... 0 1 0"

It would be interesting in these days of pleuropneumonia to know anything about this evidently serious cattle disorder in Cheshire nearly 140 years ago.

"1761. Paid Mr. Wicksted for a Tin to bake bread in for the Holy Sacrament..... 0 1 0

1762. Paid Mr. Taylor for a Bassoon 5 5 0
 Car'e from London..... 0 2 0"

If this item of carriage from London is correct, two shillings for the conveyance of a musical instrument worth five guineas puts to shame modern railway charges.

This is the first entry of a series which show the pains bestowed upon music for the services in Bunbury Church:—

"1787. Paid John Richardson a Bill for instructing the singers	8	17	0
1800. Paid for a Pitch-pipe for the singers	0	2	0
1801. To a hantboy for the singers	0	14	0
1811. Paid for the Bass Violin	6	16	7
1820. Paid Mr. Cotgreave for teaching the singers, 62 nights at 5s.	15	10	0
1821. Ditto 77 ditto	19	5	0
1822. Ditto 26 ditto	6	10	0
1771. Paid for Hints on Confirmation	0	8	0
1776. Paid for a coat for Edward Pinnington	0	16	2"

The coat was a great element of the terror created in my own mind by the "awakener," whose "cobs" I dreaded as a child; and I assume that this Edward Pinnington was a descendant and successor in the office of Richard Pinnington in 1731, and that the coat was his official robe.

"1780. Paid for an Umbrello for the Parish 1 1 0"

This I can only suppose was intended for the use of the Vicar when officiating at funerals. BUNBURY parish was early alive to the advantages of the new invention, as Jonas Hanway, the philanthropic Russian merchant, who died in 1786, is said to have been the first person who used an Umbrella in England.

"1812. To liquor when the Wrenbury parson preached 0 | 5 | 0" |

This, I am thankful to say, is the last entry of this description which I noticed among MR. MARTIN'S extracts, but whether it is actually the last in the books I cannot say.

"1821. Paid for a new Box for the Minister at Funerals 2 | 18 | 0" |

This box I well remember myself, and I have some vague recollection or tradition of either this box or a similar one being blown bodily over by the wind with the minister in it!

This box being the link of connection between things ancient and modern, with the former of which THE SHEAF is more concerned, I here leave the Church Books of BUNBURY; feeling convinced, that like sources would supply a great deal of interesting comment on our national history.

J. C. E.

Burwash Rectory, Sussex.

Notes.

[1394] DICK OF ABERDARON.

MR. JOSEPH MAYER, F.S.A. (in a Reply marked No. 1,880, November 9), states that he has "an etching of a full-length portrait of RICHARD ROBERT JONES, as a

frontispiece to a memoir of him written by William Roscoe." In *Notes and Queries*, of May 29, Mr. WILLIAM BATES, B.A., says—"I possess a slender volume, of considerable interest, entitled 'Memoir of Richard Robert Jones, &c.,' London: Cadell, 1822,—which, though published anonymously, was the production of William Roscoe." Mr. Bates proceeds to make an extract from the "Life of Roscoe," which states that the likeness which appears as a frontispiece to JONES' Memoir, was "taken from a drawing by Williamson, formerly a portrait painter at Liverpool; etched by Mrs. Dawson Turner." By this I gather that the full-length portrait in Mr. MAYER'S possession is not the picture that formed the frontispiece of the book. In a copy before me as I write, the frontispiece is a half-length likeness of DICK, beautifully etched, and is, I am told, an admirable likeness. In *Bye-gones*, July 21, it was stated that Mr. Salisbury, of Glan Aber, has a pen and ink sketch of JONES, taken by Mrs. Dawson Turner, but not the one that was published. It was given to him by Mr. William Wallace Currie, of Liverpool, forty-two years ago. Mr. Currie's name is mentioned in an 'Advertisement' attached to Roscoe's Memoir of DICK OF ABERDARON, as one of seven who would receive subscriptions for the assistance of the subject of the memoir. There are two rude woodcuts, professing to be full-length portraits of DICK, prefixed to a sixpenny life of the linguist, published by Humphreys, of Carnarvon, about ten years ago; but there is no name of artist attached to them.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

Queries.

[1395] HAZLEHURST'S CHIMNEY, RUNCORN.

A few days ago, in company with a lot of friends at Weston Point, the question arose as to the original height of Hazlehurst's Chimney at Runcorn. Some said it was 200 feet high, others would have it was 300, and the tallest ever built in the county of Chester. Ultimately the suggestion was made that I should be deputed to ask the question in THE SHEAF. I cannot believe that the chimney was ever really 300 feet high, but if it was, would it even then have been the tallest chimney shaft in the county. In what year was the chimney built, and why was its height reduced?

Frodsham.

A. B. G.

[1396] LYARSBROOK, CHESHIRE.

Can you from the Tithe Maps or any other readily accessible source, inform a brother antiquary of mine in New York whether there is such a place in Cheshire as LYARSBROOK, whence by family tradition his ancestors hailed in or about the 17th century? Nothing pleases an

American more than being able to trace his family back to some green spot in old England; and certainly the feeling that gives rise to such a sentiment is one not unworthy of sympathy in the mother country.

L. L.

[1897] A SHRED PIE.

In some ancient accounts relating to Bramall Hall, near Stockport, which I once looked through on a visit to the old house some fifty years ago, I noticed among the entries of good things served up by the cook,—“a dysche of shredpyes.” Is this a Cheshire name for what is called in other countries a “squab pie?”

SENEX.

Replies.

[1898] A CALF KIDD.

[Nos. 1853.—Oct. 20.]

In answer to “LUCY D. T.’s” enquiry, a Calf Kidd is no doubt a calf cote, and commonly called in Cheshire at the present day, a Calf Kit.

Tushingham Hall.

B. LL. V.

WILBRAHAM, in his *Cheshire Glossary*, says a “Caulf Kit is a place to put a sucking calf in,” and it is still a common word with the farmers and farm servants of Cheshire.

D. B. J.

Mr. HALLIWELL PHILLIPS, in his *Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words*, describes a “CALF-KIDE, as a place made of boughs in a field, or near the cow-house in which the calf is kept when sucking.” We have another well-known Cheshire word, “Kidorow, a calf’s crib,” evidently of the same family. No doubt the “calfe Kidd” erected on the Chester Roodeye at a cost of nine shillings, in 1685, was a cote or kit (Anglo-Saxon *cyta*; Welsh *cwt*), to cover and protect a young calf prematurely born on the city’s well-known Ley.

T. HUGHES.

[1899] CAPTAIN JONES, OF THE FLINTSHIRE MILITIA.

[No. 1877.—March 9.]

The CAPTAIN JONES referred to in the letter of “CAMBRO BRITON” was ARTHUR VAUGHAN OWEN JONES, of Wepre Hall, in the county of Flint, who was a captain in the Flintshire Militia. At the time of the occurrence mentioned in your correspondent’s letter, that regiment was stationed. (if I am correctly informed) at Dover (it being the time of the French War): and he and several of his brother officers were standing on the cliffs there, when the part upon which he was standing gave way, and he was precipitated

many feet down below, but was not hurt; a soldier of the regiment was lowered down by ropes to him, and in that way, I think, he was rescued.

F. B. A.

The accident to Captain Jones, referred to by “CAMBRO-BRITON” is thus narrated in the *Annual Register* of 1806:—

“May 21.—Captain Jones, of the Royal Flintshire Militia, stationed at Hythe, was standing, after field exercise at Folkestone, near the edge of the cliffs; when the earth suddenly gave way under him, and he was precipitated a distance of 84 feet in an oblique direction from the top. He was providentially stopped in his fall by a small abutment on the surface of the rock, against which his foot accidentally struck. Thomas Roberts, a private in the regiment, alarmed at the truly perilous condition of his officer, endeavoured to save him, but in the attempt fell from the top to the bottom of the precipice, a distance of 540 feet (of which 261 feet were perpendicular)! As Roberts fell, Captain Jones reached out his hand to save him, providentially without reaching him, or he, too, must have gone over. Meanwhile a rope was lowered, with a noose attached, by which means the captain was drawn up, without having sustained any material injury: and the soldier, though terribly out and bruised on the head and various parts of the body, was taken up alive and without a single bone being fractured!”

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

[1400] CHESHIRE SOULERS AND SOULING.

[No. 1876.—Nov. 10.]

The custom of ‘souling’ is duly kept up here: on All Saints’ Day nearly the whole of the juvenile portion of the inhabitants go about in groups visiting the various houses in turn, so that altogether we have a lively time of it. The favourite lines, repeated in a kind of monotone by the Soulers, are these:—

Soul! soul! for a apple or two
If you han’ no apples, pears an do,
Pray-yo, good missis, a soul cake!
Up wi’ your pans, an’ down wi’ your kettles,
Fill my hat an’ I’ll be gone.
A walkin’, a talkin’, I get so very dry,
Step down in your cellar and see what you can find,
Your apples, or your pears, or your good strong beer,
And I’ll never come a soulin’ till this time next year.
One for Peter;
Two for Paul;
Three for Them as made us all.

A walkin’, a talkin’, &c.

These verses have been so used here with but little variation time out of mind. No beer or other drink is either given to or expected by the youngsters, the reference to strong beer notwithstanding. The gifts consist chiefly of fruit or coppers.

Another Soulers’ song, which, however, has, I think, nearly gone out of use of late, is:—

"God bless the master of this house,
The mistress also;
And all the little children
That round the table go;
Likewise your men and maidens,
Your cattle and your store;
And all that is within your gates
I wish them ten times more!"

Mow Cop.

G. H.

DECEMBER 1, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- Dec. 1.—300 citizen troops marched out from Chester to the attack of Hawarden Castle..... 1643
 „ 2.—Brian Walton consecrated Bishop of Chester 1660
 „ 3.—St. Paul's Church, Boughton,—Land to build the Church upon conveyed by the Corporation to the Lord Bishop of Chester, appointed Registrar of Chester Diocese 1769
 „ 5.—Tremendous storm, in which the "Prince Regent" packet, plying between Liverpool and Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, was wrecked, and 16 persons drowned 1822
 „ 6.—Over, Cheshire, additions to Churchyard and Burial-ground consecrated by Bishop Charles J. Blomfield 1824
 „ 7.—The Right Honble. John, first Lord Tollemache of Helmingham, born... 1805
 J. H.

Original Documents.

[1401] ROUNDHEAD TROUBLES AT NANTWICH.

As some further illustration of the worries and disagreements with which the Roundhead local leaders were here and there beset, in their struggle for place and power during the great Civil War, I append two Letters that passed between the perhaps exacting "COMMITTEE AT NAMPTWICH" and the, just then, half-hearted and dilatory Col. JOHN BOOTH at WARRINGTON. It seems to me that a Royalist success or two about that period would have changed the tactics of the gallant Colonel, and converted him into an active opponent of the party with whom he was, at this date, engaged in an angry passage of words. But happily alike for the braves of Warrington and Nantwich, as

well as for BREERTON, their commander-in-chief, the tide had turned, and was still drifting utterly in their favour here as elsewhere.

These two Letters should be read in connection with those printed at No. 1359 of THE SHEAF, contributed by Dr. KENDRICK, from whose transcripts, in like manner, they are taken. The originals are in the British Museum (*Add. MSS.* 11,331, ffo. 42 and 42b.). They show pretty clearly that both parties in the national struggle were getting sick and tired of the bloodshed, and of the plots and counter-plots everywhere prevalent, at least in the sister counties of Lancashire and Cheshire.

"From Coll' JOHN BOOTH to ye Com'ttee at NAMPTWICH.

Gentlemen,

Perhapes ye stayering ye preceedinges of some employed in these partes for ye Raising of men for ye Present service against CHESTER may, at first, have an ill assentment w'th you. But if I may be rightly understood by you, and that there may be noe differences amongst us, I desire to sattisfie you, y't w'th in 6 dayes my resolution is to advance my self w'th 3 or 400 foote, to such Quarters as by you shall be thought most expedient, wherein I desire your directions; and in case I find ye country backward in affording their assistance, or refractory in yielding obedience, unto such com'ande as may tend to ye advantage of ye country, I shall not onley be very strict in bringeing them to condigne punishm't, But herein I shall crave yo'r ayde and best assistance.

I shall likewise desire y't ye great tax for Ireland may be layed and assased, according to ye ordinance of Parliam't; and that, under ye Covert of that Ordinance, ye charge be not made greater then of Right it ought to be.

I have noe more at p'sent to trouble you w'th, only to desire y't you will communicate to us here as there shall be occasion, what you heare concerning ye Enemy; and wherein wee may be any waies serviceable, you shall find us forwardly willing to apply our best assistance, and my selfe readie to manifest to you that I am my countries and

Yo'r true friend and servant,

J. BOOTH.

Warrington, ye 20 Aprill, 1645."

In answer to this querulous Letter the COMMITTEE AT NAMPTWICH reply caustically as follows, but without appending any official signature:—

"S'r,—

Wee tanke you for yo'r respectes, and shall be readie upon all occasions to make you suitable returne; but am very sory you should give yo'r least impu'tents [? importance] to either of ye warrantes wee lately sent out,—ye one for Raiseing of men, ye other for moneyes.

The first being of ye necessity y't, without it, our designs for CHESTER, w'ch is of soe great concern't to ye whole Kingdome, must needes fall to ye ground: And ye other soe requisite that, should it

receive an unavoydable Rubb, those forces wee already have must needs disband, w'oh would prove of noe leese dangerous consequences; and both of them warranted by sev'all Ordinance of Parliam'te, and needs not ye covert of that onley for Ireland, w'oh was included more for ye ease of ye Assessors, than for ye Justifying of any act, how unwarrantable soever you thinke it.

S'r, what was done was by a full Counsell of Warre: and not w'thout mature considerac'on: and for you to crosse it, w'oh would be a crosse to ye designe both ye Parliam't and ye Com'ttee of both Kingdomes have soe much taken into their thoughtes, will prove we are to crosse yourselfe, whose estimac'on, as we have most vallued, soe shall wee be ever tender to preserve.

S'r, wee write thus as freinds, and not as from a Counsell of Warre; whose absence for ye present doeth disenable us to give you a farther answer to this, or to yo'r other proposition for ye Raising of some more then formerly hath bin written from ye board to ye whole Countie of Lancast'r. Wherein, if yo'r forwardnes doe appeare beyond others, soe will your merret to that Countie tend to ye Publique, whereof yo'rselfe in the number.

S'r, wee will trouble you noe further in this: The chiefe newes we have is from Gloucester and Sallope, w'oh tells us ye Princes intend for CHESHIRE, &c."

There is another letter or two, bearing upon this restless epoch in our Cheshire annals, still remaining unprinted amongst Dr. KENDRICK's transcripts from the "Brereton Correspondence," and I may possibly return thereto at some future day. T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1402] W. O. HARLING, ARTIST.

WILLIAM OWEN HARLING was a native of CHESTER, being the eldest son of Mr. WM. HARLING, of St. John's Rectory, where he (the latter) kept for many years a first-class Boarding School.

He received an excellent education from his father, whom he occasionally assisted in the school. He was afterwards sent to College, but to the surprise of his friends forsook his literary and scholastic walk for that of the Fine Arts.

He studied for some time under Mr. WM. JONES, Portrait Painter, of this city; and then, under the patronage of the late WM. WARDELL, Esq., was sent to Rome and Florence. He brought back with him several well-executed copies of the Old Masters, which were favourably hung at the first Art Exhibition of the Mechanics' Institution, at which also were shown some carefully and well-painted cabinet portraits of MR. WARDELL, MR. WILLIAM BROWN, MR. PRICHARD Draper, and poor Old MUSGROVE, a brother artist.

Shortly after this he went to London as a portrait painter, where he was introduced to first-class society, and executed some good portraits; but none have been seen that I am aware of in Chester, or noticed in any art periodical. He is said to have entered more into decorative painting in the mansions of the nobility, during his residence in London, than into his own chosen line,—portrait painting.

A very characteristic portrait by him of MR. JONATHAN LOWE, tobacco manufacturer, of Chester, is in the possession of his granddaughter, Mrs. E. J. Williams, of Barrow-in-Furness. His large gallery-picture, a copy of "The Last Supper," by Andrea del Sarto, is in the collection of Mr. Henry Watson Jones, of Chester, who purchased it at the late Mr. Wardell's sale a dozen years or so ago.

R. O.

[1403] RANDLE HOLME THE THIRD.

At No. 791 of THE SHEAF, there is garnered an interesting Letter to this worthy, from his brother-in-law THOMAS SOLEY. He and his sister, Mrs. Holme, were children of the Rev. Henry Soley, of Forton, Salop; and there seems to have been some prior and closer connection between the two families, which as yet I have been unable to fathom.

How RANDLE HOLME first fell in with the Shropshire maiden is uncertain: possibly during some professional "visitation" of his own into that county as Deputy Chester Herald; or her father may have held clerical duty in the city for awhile, and so the young people have been brought together. Any way, it was pretty certainly a love-match; for the sober herald has preserved in a volume of the Harl. MSS. some verses composed by the older Randle, and addressed to his son's sweetheart in their courting days; which, though not perhaps quite Miltonian in quality, are yet worthy of being inserted here. Mr. Halliwell Phillips, our great Shakesperian scholar, has included the lines in his *Palatine Anthology*, p. 184, and it is from his pages that I hereunder quote them:—

*"Upon Sarah Soley, longe stayinge in the country,
and expected by my wife and me.*

S adly wee sitt, Soley, for want of thee;
A ll myrth is gone untill we doe thee see;
Restles thoughts each day doth cause us mourne,—
A las! we sigh untill thy safe returne.
H ast then! wee say, 'tis true you may beleve,
Soley, not one, but Soley, wee both greave!
O hast! hast! to make the sadd amends,
L oe! this is all the sole crye of your friends.
E ach one desires their love to you to send,
Y our safe returne wee wish, and so I end.

R. HOLME."

There is no date to this *brochure*; but it was probably a little while before the interesting event I have now the pleasure to put for the first time in print from the Parish Registers of St. OSWALD's, Chester. For this.

privilege I am again indebted to the kindness of the Rev. W. H. L. Cogswell, Vicar of St. Oswald's, whose earliest Registers date back to 1580. On the 23rd of August, 1655, four loving couples presented themselves before a city magistrate, Alderman WILLIAM INCE, in order to have their marriages publicly solemnized and recorded, the religious ceremony in the Church being in those days forbidden. I to-day busy myself with but one of these, which is registered as follows:—

"Randle Holme of this Citty, Gent', and Sarah Solle of the same Citty, Spinster, Married before Mr. William Ince, Ald'm' & Justice of Peace, the 23rd day of Augu: 1655. Witnesses, Mr. Randle Holme, Sani'r, and Thomas Simson."

It would appear from the HOLME pedigree in *Ormerod* that there were five children the issue of this marriage, all of them born within ten years; for in the Registers of St. MARY's parish, Chester, appears the following:—

"Sarah Holmes, wife of Mr. Randolph Holmes, buried 10 April, 1665."

This was the SARAH SOLEY of her father-in-law's anagrammatic muse, and I am inclined to think she died in childbirth. Her husband, the third Randle, author of *The Academie of Armory*, married a second (if not a third) time after her death, and had a numerous second family. His own burial is thus recorded in the St. MARY's Registers, kindly made available to me by the Rev. CANON BOWEN, the Rector:—

"Mr. Randell Holme, senio'r, of Bridge-street, Herald of Armes, was Buryed the 15th day of March, 1699."

Shoemakers proverbially wear the worst shoes; and, strange to say, the pedigree of the Holme family, local apostles, as they were, of genealogy, is about the most imperfect of the entire series given in *ORMEROD'S History of Cheshire*.

T. HUGHES.

Queries.

[1404] SNEAKRECY, *alias* SECRECY.

This play upon words is said to be of Cheshire origin, and to have been invented as a sneer at the dreaded secrecy of the Ballot? Under what circumstances, and by whom, was the word "sneakrecy" coined?

I remember hearing the celebrated Kossuth in the Chester Music Hall, when, in the midst of a fervid harangue, and for want of a particular word to convey a certain idea, he suddenly created the word "solidarity," which has since then been generally admitted to a place in our English dictionaries.

M. O. Y.

[1405] "THE CHESTER GLEANER."

In September, 1824, was published the first number of the above work,—a thin 8vo pamphlet. The copy I possess is unfortunately minus its cover, but I should imagine, from its size, that it made a monthly appearance. The number in question contains an etching of the "Ruins of St. John's Priory, Chester," by way of frontispiece.

It is through the appropriate medium of *THE CHESHIRE SHEAF* that I now enquire if this "Gleaner" was carried on; or whether, like other contemporary local journals, it ceased to exist after the issue of a few numbers. Some contributor may perhaps inform me?

ANTIQUARIUS.

Replies.

[1406] CHESHIRE HERONRIES.

[Nos. 1226, 1246, 1310.—July 24, 28, Sept. 15.]

The late Bishop EDWARD STANLEY, of Norwich, while Rector of ALDERLEY, half a century ago, published a very interesting and still popular *Familiar History of Birds, their nature, habits, and instincts*. This volume contains many curious anecdotes and reminiscences of his personal experience as to the habits of birds in his own native country. The following is worth preserving in *THE SHEAF*:—

"At DUNHAM, near Altrincham, in Cheshire, the seat of the Earl of Stamford, there is a HERONRY which has existed for many years. It happened about the latter end of March, or beginning of April, a few years ago, that a gentleman, riding along the turnpike road, saw, in a small field about a mile from the trees where the birds breed, about thirty-five or forty standing on the ground, and occasionally moving slowly in various directions. At first he was uncertain what birds they were, as their heads were thrown back, and they appeared little raised from the ground; but, on approaching the spot, he was soon satisfied that they were HERONS. His presence, however, had no other effect (though in general they are remarkably shy and cautious) than inducing those nearest the hedge, where he had stationed himself to watch their motions, to walk leisurely to a more distant part of the field. He remained for some time a spectator of their singular assemblage, which impressed him with the opinion that it was a deliberate council; and we agree with him that their object was connected with the usual pairing, which takes place about that time. We are the more strengthened in the opinion, from having witnessed meetings in some degree similar amongst other birds."

The Bishop then relates similar experiences he had had in connection with flocks of Magpies and Starlings.

but I refrain from quoting these to-day, as the subject which elicited this communication related to HERONRIES alone.
G. T.

[1407] AN IMPRISONED PRIOR.

[No. 1282.—Aug. 25.]

I suspect the incident to which "CAMERO-BRITON" refers is one which occurred in the reign of Richard II., almost five centuries ago; and which will be best described in the words of the Calendar to the *Thirty-sixth Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records* (Appendix II., p. 18), as follows:—

"1395-5, March 18. Sir William Bagot, Kt., acknowledges himself satisfied touching all actions, &c., against Richard Runcorn, Prior of the Friars Preachers, Chester, for detention of a chest containing charters, &c., for which the said Prior was imprisoned in the prison of the Northgate, at Chester [18 & 19 Rich. II., m. 1 d. (2); m. 1 d. (4).]"

This, and one or two additional facts as to this Richard Runcorn, will be found noticed in Helsby's new edition of *ORMEROD'S Cheshire*, vol. i., p. 849. Prior RUNCORN, imprisoned as above stated, presided over the house of the Black or Preaching Friars at Chester certainly from 1394 to 1398, and he is the only Head of that local religious house whose name has come down to us.
H. S. A.

[1408] NAFTEL THE ARTIST.

[No. 1809.—Sept. 15.]

About forty-four years ago two young men came to CHESTER to seek their fortunes as artists—one as a portrait painter: the other taught landscape in penoil. But his style was quite different from anything we had been used to in Chester; nearly all his drawings being done with double—, treble—, and even four— B. penoils, and totally opposed to the style then taught by the local artists.

His bold, beautiful sketches soon gained him some admirers, and it gave me great pleasure to assist him to procure pupils, and his friend sitters for portraits. The portrait artist was D. LYNCH; the other, PAUL J. NAFTEL. The latter obtained a few pupils, but soon found there was little chance of succeeding in Chester in the face of such an old-established favourite as MR. PICKERING; who not only had all the private pupils, but every school of any consequence in this city and miles round. After remaining in Chester some months he left, and I believe finally settled in one of the Channel Islands. From what I can recollect, Mr. Nafel's drawings were nearly all landscape, and not local subjects.

LYNCH, unfortunately, remained in CHESTER, and after leading a very dissipated life for some years, 'uring which time he existed by painting portraits on peacocks, which were generally sold or raffled for at public houses, he eventually died in a miserable state.

If the older taverns of Chester were looked over, I have little doubt a number of his portraits would be found.
Queen's Park.
G. P.

In the *Chester Courant* for Tuesday, August 15th, 1837, I see the following Advertisement:—

"DRAWING TAUGHT.

MR. P. J. NAFTEL, late Professor of Drawing at Elizabeth College, and the Mechanics' Institution, in Guernsey, begs leave respectfully to inform the Nobility, Gentry, and the Public generally of Cheshire and North Wales, that he is induced by the encouragement given to him by some of the highest families in Chester and Mold, who are acquainted with his ability and mode of instruction, to establish himself in this city; and having a moiety of his time unoccupied, would be glad to devote it to other private families or schools, in any place within 25 miles of Chester.

Any communication addressed to MR. P. J. NAFTEL, at Mr. Richards, 45, Watergate-street Row, will be promptly attended to."

MR. NAFTEL still resides, I believe, in Guernsey, where he had lived prior to his coming to CHESTER in 1837. He is a member of the Old Society of Painters in Water Colors, and his works have attained high celebrity, and command good prices.

A WOODMAN.

[1409] CHESHIRE SOULERS AND SOULING.

[Nos. 1376, 1400.—March 10, 24.]

The ditty sung at our doors on the eve of All Souls varies more and more every year; and of late Christmas rhymes may occasionally be heard mixed up with the legitimate doggerel. The following is the most complete version I ever heard, and it appeared in *Bye-gones* Dec. 11, 1872:—

"Wissel wassel, bread and possel,
Cwrrw da, plas yma;
Apple or a pear, plum or a cherry,
Any good thing that will make us merry.
Go down to your cellar and draw some beer,
And we won't come here 'till next year.
Sol cakes, Sol cakes,
I pray you good Missus a Sol cake,
One for Peter, and two for Paul,
And three for the man that made us all.
God bless the master of this house,
Likewise the mistress too,
And all the little children,
Around the table too.
Their pockets lined with silver,
Their barrels filled with beer,
Their pantry full with pork pies—
I wish I had some here!
The roads are very dirty,
My shoes are very thin,
I've got a little pocket
To put a penny in.
Up with the kettle, and down with the pan,
Give us an answer, and we'll be gan."

I may say that "Wissel, Wassel" is never omitted, and has always, as long as I can remember, been the opening line of the piece! The Rev. Elias Owen, in *Montgomeryshire Collections*, vol. xi., p. 166, gives the following as New Year rhymes:—

"The road is very dirty,
My shoes are very thin,
Please to give me a penny
To put some nails in."

The boys about OSWESTRY are not so provident; and they use the version I have given at All Soule, All Saints, Christmas, and the New Year!

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. B.

DECEMBER 8, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- Dec. 8.—St. John the Baptist's Chapel, Hartford, consecrated by Bishop G. H. Law ... 1824
 „ 9.—Lord Grosvenor and Mr. John Jervis (afterwards Lord Chief Justice Jervis) elected Representatives of Chester City 1832
 „ 10.—Nantwich town almost totally destroyed by fire 1583
 „ 12.—Calvin Bruen, of Stapleford and Chester, a "Prynneite," recanted his errors before the Mayor of Chester 1637
 „ 13.—Malpas Parsonage-house granted by faculty (from Bishop W. Markham to the Rev. Reginald Heber, Rector); to be taken down and rebuilt 1773
 J. H.

Original Documents.

[1410] ST. OSWALD'S, CHESTER, AND BRUERA.

The following Inventory of the Property and Dues of the Vicarage of ST. OSWALD'S in the 17th century is worthy of preservation in THE SHEAF. It occurs on two vellum leaves, much stained, bound up with one of the Register Books of this ancient parish:—

"A Copy of A Terrier of ST. OSWALD'S CHURCH, At the second Visitation of the R't Rev'd NICHOLAS, Lord Bishop of CHESTER, June the 30th, 1698.

A true & perfect Terrier of all the Glebe Lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements, & Cottages, belong to the Vicarage of ST. OSWALD'S, in CHESTER.

Also a Note of such Pensions & Profits as belong to the Vicarage.

Imprimis, an House, called the Vicarage House, containing 4 small Bayr, a fore Court, a little Backside, a Stable and hay loft of one Bay, yet situated in the precincts of the Abbey. All the Buttress' (?) in the which precinct, except the B'ps Palace, were (as we have heard) given to the Dean & Chapter at the Dissolution of the Abbey.

An House, Garden, Out housen, & Glebe, with certain Tyths, in the chappellry of BRUERA, or Church en Heath, whereof the Chappel Wardens are to bring in their Terrier.

	£	s.	d.
Due to the Vicar for each Marriage with License.....	00	05	0
" " " If Banns published	00	03	0
For each Christening or Churching ...	00	01	0
For Interring a Corps	00	01	0
The Pigs & Geese in Kind. For a Tyth Pig or Goose	00	00	0
Cow and Calf	00	00	0
Barren Cow	00	00	0
Tyth Hemp & Flax, Wool & Lamb, & Bees if any			

EASTER ROLL.

For each Communicant 1d., each Offering day.....	00	00	0
Trade (?) or Hand	00	00	0
House or Smoak (?)	00	00	0
Garden	00	00	0
Hens	00	00	0
The Inhabitants of Huntington, Heath House, and Crabball, pretend exemption from payment of Tythes, yet we have heard that the Inhabitants of Huntington paid all manner of Tythes before the Civil Wars, due 1642.			

There is likewise due from the Dean and Chapter to the Vicar of St. Oswald's five Nobles every yeare 01 . 13 . 0

Due to the Vicar of St. Oswalds at every Funeral when the Pulpitt is covered with Blacks,—the Blacks or... 00 . 10 . 0

Due for any Letters cut upon the grave stones within the Church..... 00 . 03 . 0

Due for any Funeral brought from another Parish, & buried in St. Oswald's,—double Fees.

L. FOGGE, Vic'r.

WILL' FRANCIS, }
WILL. MAXFIELD, } Ch. Ward'.

A True and perfect Terrier of all & every of the Glebe Houses & Lands of BRUERA or CHURCH EN HEATH Chappell within the Parish of St. Oswald, exhibited the 20 day of August, 1663.

Imp'is, The great Feyld containing 2 Acres.

The Church Croft containing an Acre & half.

The higher Bothoms and lower Bothoms, containing one Acre and half.

The Glebe House upon the p'mises in bad Repayre. Also a little Barne upon the p'mises in good repayre. Also two Coates in Salghton, being

Church land, to the value of ten shillings Rent, one in Tho's Davies, the other of Katherine Hutton, alias Harrison. All which We, whose names are underwritten, do value the same at the Annual Rent of £10 10s. 00d.

By us,
John Cotton, John Davis, Jo. Rawlinson,
Tho. Smith, old Church Warden."

Following close on to the above in the Parish Register Book of St. Oswald's, is another Terrier, signed by the new Vicar, MR. ARTHUR FOGGE, who in the short interval of four years had succeeded the Dean, his father, in the Living.

"A true and perfect Terrier of the Glebe Lands and Tithes belonging to the Church in the Chapelry of BRUERA; made according to the instructions of the Right Rev'd Father in God, NICHOLAS, Lord Bishop of Chester, 12th May, 1701.

1. One Dwelling House at Church on Heath, consisting of four Bays of Building, with a Barn of 8 bays, Stable, a Cowhouse, & 2 little Gardens appertaining thereto: Two small Cottages, with 2 little Gardens thereto appertaining in Saughton, belonging to the Vicar of St. Oswald's.

2. Four Closes of Pasture Land adjacent to the aforesaid Dwelling House, Barn, &c., at Church on heath, being (as is supposed) seven Cheshire acres & an half, belonging to the said Vicar of St. Oswald's.

3. Saughton Demean pays by Composition two pounds yearly in lieu of Tithes.

4. The other Estates & Lands in Saughton, with those at Newbold & Church on heath Farms, & Legh Demean, pay Tithe in Kind of Corn, Hay, Hemp, Flax, Lambs, Wool, Piggs, Geese. The Custom there for Herbage is to pay ye tenth part of ye yearly value of the Ground depastured. For Easter Offerings is four pence for a man & his Wife, for every Cow & Calf 1 penny halfpenny, for every barren Cow 1 penny, for hens 1 pen.; for a Colt 4 pen.:

5. The 2 pounds above mentioned, p'd yearly from Saughton Demean in lieu of Tithes, belong to the Appropriators, ye Dean & Chapter. The Tythes of ye other Estates & Lands in Saughton, & of those at Newbold, & of Church on heath Farm, belong to the Vicar of St. Oswald's.

6. The Tithes of Legh are an augmentation enjoyed by the Vicar of St. Oswald's; but whether absolutely given by ye Dean & Chapter to the said Vicar, We are uncertain.

ARTHUR FOGGE, Vicar,
JOHN PENNY, Chap. Warden of Bruera."
EDITOR.

Notes.

[1411] DEER DRIVING AT LYME.

I copy from *Ten Thousand Wonderful Things*, a book published by Messrs. Geo. Routledge and Sons, edited

by Edmund Fillingham King, M.A., the following interesting article, relating to the north-eastern side of Cheshire:—

"Buried at Disley, Cheshire, June 2d, 1783, Mr. Joseph Watson, in the 105th year of his age. He was born at Mossley Common, in the parish of Leigh, in the County of Lancaster, and married his Wife from Etchells, near Manchester, in the said County. They lived a happy couple 72 years. She died in the 94th year of her age. He was Park Keeper to the late Peter Legh, Esq., of Lyme, and his father, 64 years. He used to drive and show the Red Deer to most of the Nobility and Gentry in that part of the Kingdom, to the general satisfaction of all who ever saw that performance: for he could have driven and commanded them at his pleasure, as if they had been common horned-cattle. In the reign of Queen Anne, Squire Legh was at Macclesfield, in Cheshire, in company with a number of gentlemen, amongst whom was Sir Roger Mostyn, who was then one of the Members for the said County. They being merry and free, Squire Legh said "his Keeper should drive 12 Brace of Stags to the Forest of Windsor, a present to the Queen." Sir Roger opposed it with a wager of 500 guineas, saying that "neither his Keeper, nor any other person, could drive 12 Brace of Red Deer from Lyme Park to Windsor Forest on any account." So Squire Legh accepted the wager from Sir Roger, and immediately sent a messenger to Lyme for his Keeper, who directly came to his master: who told him "he must immediately prepare himself to drive 12 Brace of Stags to Windsor Forest, for a wager of 500 guineas." He gave the Squire, his master, this answer, that "he would, at his command, drive him 12 Brace of Stags to Windsor Forest, or to any part of the Kingdom by his Worship's direction, or he would lose his life and fortune." He undertook, and accomplished this most astonishing performance, which is not to be equalled in the annals of the most ancient history. He was a man of low stature, not bulky, of a fresh complexion, and a pleasant countenance. He believed he had drunk a gallon of malt liquor a day, one day with the other, for above Sixty years of his time."

Eccleston.

JNO. LEYFIELD.

Mr. EARWAKER, in his *East Cheshire*, Vol. II., p. 308, gives this wonderful story in almost the same words, adding the following amongst other local particulars:—

"In the 103'd year of his age he was at the Hunting and Killing a Buck with the Honourable George Warren, in his Park at Poynton, whose activity gave pleasure and surprise to all spectators there present. Sir George was the 5th generation of the Warren family he had performed that diversion with in Poynton Park."

Mr. Earwaker quotes the following inscription from a tombstone in DISLEY Church, in confirmation of this Stag Driving story:—

"Here Lyeth Interred the
Body of Joseph Watson, Bur-
ied June the third 1753,
Aged 104 years. He was
Park Keeper at Lyme more
than 64 years, and was ye First
that Perfected the Art of Dri-
ving ye Stags. Here Aliso Lyeth
the Body of Elizabeth his
wife, Aged 94 years, to whom
He had been married 73 years.

Reader take Notice, the Long-
est Life is Short."

The old Park-keeper was grand-father of the Rev.
JOHN WATSON, F.S.A., Rector of Stockport 1769-83,
author of several well-known antiquarian works.

T. HUGHES.

[1412] WRENBURY PARISH BOOKS.

Referring to No. 1393 of *THE SHEAF*, there is reason
to suppose that if the BUNBURY Parson returned "the
WRENBURY Parson's" visit, he received like good
entertainment. For the Wrenbury people *treated* their
own Parson at Easter, Whitsuntide, and Christmas,
according to many entries in the old Rate Book; as well
as divers "strange ministers," in the 18th century.
But those were the good old times.

The Customs of WRENBURY Parish were indeed much
the same as those of BUNBURY, in the several particulars
cited in No. 1393, as one might expect. Thus, at
WRENBURY the bells were rung at Coronations, Royal
Marriages, and Birthdays; for King Charles's return;
for "rebels suppress" in 1715 and 1746; for "the King
of Prussia's victory over the Russians" in 1758; on
May 24th and 29th; on June 11th; on July 7th, 1713,
"for the Peace"; on November 5th, and many other
days, annual or occasional, as on Easter Monday,
at Christmas, and on New Year's Day; for Rodney,
Duncan, and Nelson victorious; for "Catholic Emancipa-
tion postponed," &c., &c., as the popular feeling
prompted.

The title of "Dog Whipper" was exchanged
for that of "Beadle" at WRENBURY in 1826,
when Hugh Vaughan succeeded James Stephens. The
Dog Whipper had ten shillings a year in 1735. In 1780
he was freshly arrayed in a new coat, hat, and boots,
at the Parish expense. He continued "cobbing
sleeping Folke" till he was finally arrested, it is said,
out of reverence for the slumbers of an aged minister,
who had retired superannuated from the desk to
his pew, having in his time put many to sleep.
In whose day it probably occurred, that the Dogwhipper
came up to the pulpit steps on the Wakes' Sunday, in
the midst of the very long sermon, and said aloud—
"Mesther, ye mun stop noo, t' Bear's comen!" The
Bear was baited on WRENBURY GREEN, in the memory
of persons not yet elderly. The Dogwhipper's seat, and
the box for the Minister at Funerals," may still be

seen in WRENBURY Church; but the parish umbrella,
last purchased in 1791, is no longer to be found there.

The Cattle Plague seems to have raged at WRENBURY
in 1746. The Parish was not always "a portion for
foxes;" for in 1758 the churchwardens paid for five foxes
killed as vermin. As for owls, "urchins," sparrows,
and bullfinches, they had awful times from the middle
of the last century till quite lately. Owls and bull-
finches are now become rare; and even sparrows seem
to me less abundant than in most other villages. In
1755 and 1758, the owls were cleared out of the Church
Tower. In 1786, the Parish paid for 708 dozen of birds'
heads; for 695 dozen, and 13 urchins, in 1787; for 295½
dozen and 21 urchins in 1788. This havoc went on for
ages. A motion to stop it was carried in the vestry in
1842, but rescinded the next year, when bullfinches
were 8d. a head, and sparrows 8d. a dozen.

Wrenbury.

T. W. N.

Queries.

[1413] JUDGE BRADSHAW'S BED.

Round the cornice of a bed, said to have been slept in
by Cromwell, at MARPLE Hall near STOCKPORT, which
was the home of BRADSHAW the Regicide, is the follow-
ing couplet:—

"Who loveth not mercy, mercy shall miss,
But he shall have mercy who merciful is."

Can this bed be traced back, with any show of
authority, to the middle of the 17th century, and to the
ownership of the Regicide?

Bromborough.

J. R. WILLIAMS.

[1414] STANLOW ABBEY.

Can any of your correspondents give me some in-
formation about STANLOW ABBEY, Cheshire? I was
there recently, and saw several curiously-sculptured
stones here and there in the building of walls, &c., in
the neighbourhood; and I heard also that there were
several subterranean passages from the Abbey, starting
away in various directions. On looking through the
various histories of the county, the information there
given is so limited as not to enable a reader to form any
idea either of the extent or history of the place.

Sutton.

H. F.

[1415] A LOCAL POET, 1750.

Can MR. HUGHES or any of your correspondents
throw any light upon the author of a volume of Poems,
published in Chester in 1750, and bearing the following
title:—

"MISCELLANY POEMS, on Moral Subjects.
Chester: Printed by Elis. Adams, for the Author.
MDCCL." Quarto, pp. 39."

There is no clue to the author's name, but in the Preface this volume is spoken of "as the first Essay of a young Pen, and of a Mind, which has had little besides the disagreeable Experience of an unfortunate Constitution."

Withington.

J. P. EARWAKER.

[1416] THE CITY WAITS.

My grandfather tells me that he remembers being aroused many a time at midnight, during Advent, in his youthful days, by a band of musicians who perambulated the streets of CHESTER, playing certain then familiar airs from house to house, and bidding the inmates a loud "Good Morning!" This would be about 65 or 70 years ago; and my worthy *grand-pere* says the men were called CITY WAITS. As they have never made themselves heard in these days, at least by me, I should like to learn something more about them and their history.

JUVENIS.

Replies.

[1417] A SHOVERING.

[No. 1362.—Oct. 27.]

In the volume of GRANTS AND LEASES, preserved among the City Archives at CHESTER, I have twice, recently, fallen in with this purely local word. At pages 7 and 12, reference is made to a Lease of "two Shoverings adjoining to a house on the *Muck Hill*, near the Bridge Gate." And again, as follows:—

"And also all that one howse or buldinge, containing in leinghe Sixtene foote, and in breadeth eight foote, com'only called A shoveringe."

I take it, therefore, that a "shovering" of our Cheshire 16th century dialect is represented in the present day by the term "a lean-to," or pent-house,—a structure thrown out, as it were, from the main building.

The PENTICE at the High Cross at Chester may be quoted as an *apropos* example. It stood immediately in front of the south and east walls of St. Peter's Church; and was a "lean to" in every sense, for it utilized the church wall as a part of its own structure. In fact, our city magistrates' court took its name from this its dependent style of building; for the old Pentice, which survived to the beginning of this century, was in name as in fact, a "pent-house," or in other words, "a Shovering."

T. HUGHES.

[1418] DICK OF ABERDARON.

[Nos. 1380, 1394.—Nov. 10, 24.]

Referring to this interesting subject I would mention that, living in Liverpool when RICHARD ROBERT JONES also lived there, I not infrequently saw him in

some of its principal streets, accompanied by his store of books; I also purchased the Memoir of him, by William Roscoe, when it was printed.

Among other memorials, I have several of this extraordinary character, including an etching of a head, one of the so justly noted Dawson Turner collection, but without initials. Beneath the head is "Richard Roberts, 1819." I have also a fly-leaf, headed "CRANIOLOGY. Outline of the life of Richard Robert Jones." At the foot is—"Mr. BURT has just taken a miniature, and a very striking, full-length likeness of R. R. JONES, in his usual costume, as he is daily seen walking in the streets of Liverpool; from which has been etched a plate, now selling at all the Booksellers, at 1s. plain, 2s. colored." A copy of that etching, colored, is also in my possession, and recalls well to my mind the one on whom I used to gaze with a sort of wonder. Under the figure we read—"RICHARD ROBERT JONES, the wonderful *Linguist*, born at Aberdaron, Carnarvonshire, now living in Liverpool. Drawn, engraved, and published by H. E. Burt, Miniature Painter, Chester, May 30, 1823."

With these I possess three MSS.; one, the Lord's Prayer from "Matt. vi., 9," in Greek, Hebrew, and English; another, that prayer in Greek, signed "Richard Robert Jones," dated "3 February, 1824"; the third, four small leaves in Greek, headed "The Order of Harps"; the eighth page with the drawing of a harp.

S. N.

The original portrait of the above, painted in oils by ROOSE, is at KINMEL.

Kinmel.

H. R. HUGHES.

[1419] HARGRAVE SCHOOL AND CHAPEL.

[No. 1384.—Nov. 17.]

Sir Thos. Moulson was perhaps buried in London, or more likely, perhaps, in Sandbach, where there is (in the Wheelock chancel, which they probably acquired by purchase or marriage?) an old monument to one of them, as stated in the new edition of *Ormerod*, vol. ii. p. 805, and part xii.

Y.

[1420] EGERTON, A CHESHIRE NAME.

[No. 1388.—Nov. 17.]

PROFESSOR SKAT is undoubtedly correct as to the Anglo-Saxon origin of this name; but must have had the Kent *Egerton* in his mind when he fancied that the descendants of Eger (the Saxon), became Egertons (?). There is not only no evidence whatever, but it is highly improbable, that any Cheshire family of this name was of other than Norman origin.

V.

[1421] HAZLEHURST'S CHIMNEY, RUNCORN.

[No. 1395.—Nov. 24.]

I should not have supposed, on a casual survey of this Chimney as I have passed near to it from time to time in my occasional visits to RUNCORN, that it was

of at all exceptional height. But the particulars given below are from an account of the structure, written manifestly by some one in authority (perhaps by the contractor), which appeared in your own paper of forty-four years ago, and may, I presume, be taken as authentic.

The *Chester Courant* for Dec. 13, 1836, has a paragraph to the following effect:—

"IMMENSE CHIMNEY.—A magnificent chimney was completed in RUNCORN, at the soap and alkali works of Messrs. HAZLEHURST and Sons, on Saturday week. It is above 102 yards high, circular, and of most symmetrical proportions: it is seen from the surrounding country rearing its tall, majestic head above every other object. The immense pile contains more than half a million bricks, and is computed to be above 2,800 tons weight; a slight idea may be formed of it, when it is stated that the coping stone at the top weighs ten tons. It was commenced in May last, and constructed under the superintendence of the celebrated architect, Mr. Livingstone, of Newcastle, and reflects great credit upon his skill and abilities."

I don't know if there be any taller chimney standing in this county; but there is certainly one at the Chemical Works, Glasgow, measuring 420 feet high, one-third loftier than the Runcorn example.

H. S. A.

HAZLEHURST's chimney has been lowered considerably at three or four different times, and now is only about 180 feet high.

The RUNCORN SOAP AND ALKALI's chimney (late Johnson's), at their Runcorn works, is 200 feet. The same Company's chimney at Weston, near this town, is 330 feet.

Runcorn.

J. BRUNDEIT.

DECEMBER 15, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- Dec. 15.—Thomas Wainwright, LL.D., made Chancellor of Chester Diocese, in succession to Dr. John Wainwright, his father 1632
- „ 16.—William Nicholls, Dean of Chester, died at his rectory house at Northenden, Cheshire 1657
- „ 17.—St. Mary's Church, Birkenhead, consecrated by Bishop Beilby Porteus ... 1781
- „ 20.—Thomas Brooke, LL.D., Dean of Chester, died at his rectory house of Nantwich 1757

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1422] A GRESFORD FUNERAL IN 1618.

I enclose for THE SHEAF a copy of the Order of Procession set out, evidently by heraldic authority, for the funeral of Sir ROGER PULESTON, of Emral, knight, at GRESFORD Church, Denbighshire, 280 years ago almost to a day. Sir Roger was son of Roger Puleston, by Maudlyn Hanmer, his wife, of Hanmer, and grandson of Roger Puleston, of Emral, esq., by Anne Grosvenor, his wife, of Eaton Boat, co. Chester.

The original Order of Procession is preserved in Harleian MS., No. 2199, in the British Museum, and runs *verbatim* as follows:—

"1618. The order of the funerall of S'r Roger Puleston, of Emral, from Llay to Gresford, in December, 1618.

first, Rich: Powell & Roger Phillips, Conductors.

the poor, two and two

David Will'ms* Tho. ap Richard*

John barnes Will'm Wyn

John Morgan* Tho. Williams*

the trumpiter, Rich. Smyth

Standard, by Mr. Moris Griffith

the great horse, by Robt. the groom

the lance, by Mr. Phillips

Mr. Leonard* Geo. lach

John George* Roger Burton

Edward Jeninges Roger Griffith

Samuell Powell Roger Edwards*

gentlemen

Mr. Evans Mr. Will'm Edwards

Mr. Rich. Dimock Mr. Jo. Yonge

Mr. Eaton Mr. Ed. Puleston of llay

Mr. lloyd of Halghton

Mr. Jo. Hanmer Mr. Tho. Mostyn

Mr. Hope Mr. Davies

Mr. Ravenscroft Mr. Cotton

Mr. Grosvenor Mr. Egerton

S'r Rich. Grosvenor S'r Tho. Middleton

S'r Will'm Hanmer S'r Roger Mostyn

S'r Richard Wilbram

Mr. Roger Puleston, butler, the penon

Spurrs, by Mr. Roger Puleston the youngest

Helme & Crest, by Mr. J. Puleston

Sword, by Mr. Will'm Puleston

Shield, by Mr. Jo. Meredith

Cote, by Mr. Robt. Puleston

Dr. Williams, & Mr. Dod, the p'cher

the Corpes, carried into church by tho's marked with a * alone.

S'r Tho. Hanmer S'r Rich. Egerton

S'r John Hanmer S'r Jo. broughton

frends & kindred not in black."

Sir ROGER PULESTON, whose ceremonial interment at GRESFORD is thus described by a contemporary hand, married Susanna, daughter of Sir George Bromley, of Halton, co. Salop, but left no issue by that lady. He died at Llay, on the 17th of December, 1618.

ALIEN.

Notes.

[1423] BUNBURY WAKES.

A CHESHIRE CURIOUS ADVERTISEMENT.

Some years ago a lady sent me a cutting from a Dorsetshire newspaper, of which the following is a copy. I wonder where the hand-bills were circulated, and whether any other copies than the one referred to, as in the lady's possession, still exist. There is a worthy matron still alive in BUNBURY parish, who was within 3 months of 18 years of age when this advertisement was published—having been born in Sept., 1790:—

"A lady, who has a quantity of papers stored up, discovered the other day an old hand bill dated June 1808, which runs thus—'Wanted, a person to conduct the performances at BUNBURY WAKE, which will be celebrated on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, the 20th, 21st, and 22nd inst. It is necessary that he sh'd have a complete knowledge of pony and donkey racing; wheelbarrow, bag, cock, and peg racing; archery, singlestick, quoits, cricket, football, cooking, wrestling, bull and badger-baiting, dog-fighting, goose riding, bumble-puppy, &c.

In addition to the above qualifications, he must also be competent to decide in dipping, mumbling, jawing, grinning, whistling, jumping, jingling, skenning, smoking, scaling, knitting, bobbing, bowling, throwing, dancing, snuff taking, singing, pudding eating, &c. For further particulars apply to Mr. Farral of Bunbury; Mr. Vickers of Spurstow, or Mr. S. Mintoake of Nantwich.—June, 1808."

I have copied the various terms accurately from the newspaper paragraph, but what such amusements as skenning, scaling, goose-riding, and bumble-puppy were, I have no notion. I wonder at the omission of bear-baiting, which was the great attraction of Wake Monday at BUNBURY till about 50 years ago.

I have been told by persons whose knowledge of the fact was derived from the parish authorities of the time, that the parochial officers used to receive instructions to encourage the sports and amusements at BUNBURY WAKES, in order to keep the people well affected to the Government.

In reference to Bear-baiting, I copy the following from Macaulay's *History*, Vol. I., ch. 11:—

"But bear-baiting, then a favourite diversion of high and low, was the abomination which most strongly stirred the wrath of the austere sectaries. The Puritan hated bear-baiting, not because it gave pain to the bear, but because it gave pleasure to the spectators. Indeed he generally contrived to enjoy the double pleasure of tormenting both spectators and bear."

How little compassion for the bear had to do with the matter, is sufficiently proved by the following extract from a paper, entitled "A perfect Diurnal of some

Passages of Parliament, and from other parts of the Kingdom, from Monday, July 24th, to Monday, July 31st, 1643":—

"Upon the Queen's coming from Holland, she brought with her, besides a company of savagelike ruffians, a company of savage bears, to what purpose you may judge by the sequel. These bears were left about Newark, and were brought into country towns constantly on the Lord's day to be baited, such is the religion those here related would settle amongst us; and, if any went about to hinder or but speak against their damnable profanations, they were presently noted as Roundheads and Puritans, and sure to be plundered for it. But some of Colonel Cromwell's forces coming by accident into Uppingham town, in Rutland, on the Lord's Day, found these bears playing there in the usual manner, and, in the height of their sport, caused them to be seized upon, tied to a tree, and shot."

This was by no means a solitary instance. Colonel Pride, when Sheriff of Surrey, ordered the beasts in the bear garden of Southwark to be killed. He is represented by a loyal satirist, as defending the act thus:—

"The first thing that is upon my spirits is the killing of the bears, for which the people hate me, and call me all the names in the rainbow. But did not David kill a bear? Did not the Lord Deputy Ireton kill a bear? Did not another lord of ours kill five bears?"—Last Speech and dying Words of THOMAS PRIDE.

As regards the pain suffered by the bear in the process of baiting, I have my doubts. A well-known bear, 'Old Nell,' was brought for 15 consecutive years to BUNBURY WAKES by one Charles Dunning; and, as I am told, she used, when released from the stake, to saunter off very leisurely to the shippon in the Nag's Head Yard in Lower Bunbury, and there curl herself up and go to sleep as quietly as if nothing had happened! The last bear-master who provided sport for Bunbury Wakes-goers was Billy Boff, of Nantwich; and the spot on which the bear was baited was the then vacant piece of ground on which, by curious contrast, the County Police Station in Lower Bunbury now stands. The bears seem to have received very little injury, and the baiting was apparently, on the side both of the dog and the bear, a matter of skill and little else. The object of the dogs was to turn the bear on her back, and as soon as this was accomplished they were at once taken off. The bear's head was covered with a strong leather muzzle, her eyes only being seen. She had a thick bag tied round her hinder legs to protect them—her fore-legs she could well look after herself. One dog at a time only was loosed at her, and Dunning, the bear-master, or bear-ward, or 'bellart,' as I fancy I remember the title, as soon as the dog got close, would shout, "Look out, Nell!" Every consideration seems to have been shown to the bear, and as soon as she was out of wind, the dogs were stopped for a while. The charge for trying a dog at the bear was twopence. The dog's

skill, as I have said, consisted in throwing her on her back, and this could only be done by catching her by the belly, when she went over in a moment. Only about one dog in ten could manage this. A well trained dog would make at once for the vulnerable part; whereas the novices would fruitlessly attack the head, which was protected, and so would run the risk of being hugged, as the penalty of their clumsiness. The nominal prize was a brass collar worth 2s. 6d.: though here is some discrepancy which I cannot quite clear up, as the success of one dog in ten would, at this rate, cost the owner of the bear half-a-crown for twenty pence received as entrance money. It may have been that each dog had several tries, at twopence a-piece. Be this, however, as it may, the honour and the pride of ownership of the best dog was undoubtedly the main point.

One year, though very possibly the year of Talavera, Salamanca, Vittoria, or even of Waterloo itself, is better remembered by tradition in BUNBURY, as the year in which a man of the name of Robinson, of Hanmer, brought over in a van a big bear as heavy again as "Old Nell," so that there were actually two bears to be baited at the same Wakes! The powers of the Hanmer bear were exhibited in an old sand-hole in a field on the glebe, a little below the Aldersey Grammar School, on the opposite side of the road. The sand-hole was filled up, and brought into the field by my father, in the year 1829. This great bear, only about one dog in twenty, instead of one in ten, could turn, and the pride of ownership of a conquering dog was, in this case, proportionately great.

A severe blow was ultimately inflicted upon this popular sport by the Rev. JOHN MARTIN, the then Vicar of BUNBURY, who summoned a man for using, or as we should say, for abusing, his bear; and took him before the magistrate, Mr. Corbett, of Darnhall Hall, who committed him to prison for a month. The last actual baiting took place, as nearly as I can discover, about the year 1833; but the real end of the ancient, though somewhat barbarous, glories of BUNBURY WAKES, as set forth in the advertisement at the head of this notice, had been the enclosure of Bunbury Common.

Beside bears, there were also travelled bulls for the purposes of baiting, but they ceased to come to BUNBURY at an earlier date. The "game" bulls had leaden knobs on their horns, so that the dogs should not be ripped up; and as the bull would throw a dog up to the height of six or seven yards, the owner of the dog would, if possible, catch it in his arms, to prevent its legs being broken.

While I was making some enquiries in Bunbury about olden times, I heard what seemed to me a marvellous tradition,—that there was a law to prevent bulls being killed before they had been baited. Happening one day to mention this to a Sussex farmer, he told me

that he also had always understood that this was the case; adding the reason as he had heard it, which was, that coarse, inferior bull beef might not be sold as ordinary beef. This I understand was effectually prevented by the baiting, the blood of the bull being so affected by the excitement, that when the animal was killed, no mistake could possibly be made as to the flesh. In proof of the inferior nature of bull-beef, I may say that the parish accounts of my Sussex parish for 1747, give three halfpence a pound as the regular price of the bull-beef which was supplied to the parish workhouse: and my BUNBURY informant, now an old man of nearly 80 years of age, tells me that in his early days he frequently bought bull-beef at twopence a pound. As there are probably few parishes in which the rougher amusements of our forefathers survived longer than they did in Bunbury, the above account of two at any rate of the principal forms of their public enjoyment, down to their actual extinction, may not be without interest to students of our social history.

JOHN COKER EGERTON.

Burwash Rectory, Sussex.

[1424] PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION OF
CHESTER, CITY AND COUNTY.

(Continued from No. 1375.)

27 Elizabeth (1584).

Summoned to meet at Westminster, 23 November, 1584.

Dissolved 14 September, 1585.

RICHARD BIRKENHEAD, Esq.

RICHARD BAYAND, Alderman of Chester.

Elected 23 November, 1584.

In reference to this Parliament, Browne Willis, in his *Not. Parl.*, states that "it begun at Westminster, 23 November, 1585, and held to March 29 following; when it was prorogued, and so continued till the Dissolution, September 14, 1586," and gives the members as

THO. BIRKENHEAD.

RICH. BAYAND, Alderman.

RICHARD BIRKENHEAD was the base son of John Birkenhead, the eldest son of Adam Birkenhead by his wife Alice, daughter and heiress of John Huxley, of Huxley. He was chosen Recorder of Chester, 13th March, 1575, and surrendered that office to Thomas Lawton, Esq., in 1601, in consequence of being unable to execute the duties through old age. He was elected to serve in this Parliament, and also the following of 1586-7, 1588-9, and 1592-3. His uncle was Sir Ralph Birkenhead (the youngest son of Adam), who was appointed the first Recorder of Chester in 1506: another uncle was Henry, Clerk of the Green Cloth to Henry VIII., and Prothonotary and Clerk of the Crown for the Counties of Chester and Flint, and died in 1558. It was his son Henry who purchased the Manor of Birkenhead, in 1571. The family is now represented, through marriage with the female heirs, in Birkenhead Glegg, Esq., of Backford.

RICHARD BAYAND was a citizen and alderman of Chester, served the office of Sheriff in 1571, and Mayor in 1581, and in 1600, on the death of Robert Brerewood. Buried in St. Oswald's Church, Chester, August 28, 1603.

28 Elizabeth (1586).

Summoned to meet at Westminster, 15 October, 1586.
Dissolved 28 March, 1586-7.

RICHARD BIRKENHEAD, Esq.

PETER WARBURTON, Esq.

RICHARD BIRKENHEAD, Esq. See Parliamt. 27 Elizabeth, 1584.

PETER WARBURTON, Esq. At this date there were living Peter, the eldest son of Sir John Warburton, of Warburton and Arley, who served the office of Sheriff 36 Elizabeth; and Peter, the eldest son of Peter Warburton, of Hefferston Grange, the 2nd brother of Sir John Warburton of Arley. This Peter is described of Lincoln's Inn, and returned Member for the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme at the last election, and who was Vice-Chamberlain of Chester 8, July, 35th and 14 March, 36th Elizabeth, having been appointed Queen's Attorney, 19 May, 34th Elizabeth. He married Magdalen, daughter of Richard Moulton, of St. Albans, auditor of the Exchequer of Queen Elizabeth; and whose son Peter was made Justice of Chester by the Parliament *sine Rege*, 23 Charles I., 1647, at the same time as "John Bradshaw," late of Congleton.

30 and 31 Elizabeth (1588 and 1588-9).

Summoned to meet at Westminster, 12 November, 1588, and by Prorogation, 4 February, 1588-9. Dissolved 29 March, 1588-9.

RICHARD BIRKENHEAD, Recorder.

PETER WARBURTON, Esq.

RICHARD BIRKENHEAD, Esq. See Parliamt. 27 Elizabeth, 1584.

PETER WARBURTON, Esq. See Parliamt. 28 Elizabeth, 1586.

35 Elizabeth (1592-3).

Summoned to meet at Westminster 19 February, 1592-3. Dissolved 10 April, 1593.

RICHARD BIRKENHEAD, Esq., Recorder of Chester.

GILBERT GERARD, Esq.

RICHARD BIRKENHEAD, Esq. See Parliamt. 27 Elizabeth, 1584.

GILBERT GERARD, Esq., was most probably the son and heir of Thomas Gerrard, 1st Baron Gerard of Gerards' Bromley, Staffordshire, a descendant of the Gerards of Ince, Lancashire. He was created K.B. 30th May, 1610, on Henry, son of King James, being created Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester; and married in 1609 Eleanor, sole daughter and heiress of Thomas Dutton, of Dutton, she being then only 13 years of age. After his death, which took place in

1622, his widow married, as his second wife, Robert Needham, Viscount Kilmorey, of Shaventon, Salop. From this marriage the present Lord Kilmorey is descended.

Ledeham.

R. M.

Queries.

[1425] HOLT, CO. DENBIGH.

In the will of JOHN DUTTON, gent., dated 19 April, 1574, and proved at Chester, 11 September, 1574, he describes himself as "John Dutton, of the towne of Lyons, otherwise called ye HOLTE, co. Denbigh, gent.;" and desires to be buried in Holt Church, where Sir Hugh Webster was then curate. Is it known what was the cause of the above curious alteration of name?

Withington.

J. P. EARWAKER.

[1426] CELLERER'S MEADOW, CHESTER.

Was somewhere in the parish of St. MARY, or of St. OSWALD; but I dare say some one or other of your intelligent correspondents may be able to fix the exact locality. One great advantage of THE SHEAF, as it seems to me, is that we may thereby recover, and therein record, the exact position of ancient properties that may have utterly changed their names since mediæval times. CELLERER'S MEADOW may, for aught I know, be rejoicing in the modern name of Curzon Park, Eversleigh Park, or possibly even NEW-TOWN; but I want to know.

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[1427] HIGDEN'S POLYCHRONICON.

It would be interesting to learn how many manuscript copies of this famous work, written by a learned monk of CHESTER Abbey, are now extant,—it is to be feared but very few. One, however, dated 1377, is, I believe, still in existence and preserved in Winchester College, to the library of which it was presented by William of Wykeham. Doubtless there are others, and as carefully treasured, if we only knew *where*. Can any of your antiquarian readers place them and their resting places on record?

Parkgate Road.

F. H. W.

Replies.

[1428] EVESACK, FLINTSHIRE.

[No. 1195.—June 23.]

This estate forms now a portion of, and is entirely merged in the Hanmer property in the neighbourhood of Halghton, near Hanmer, Flintshire. It came to the

Hammers along with Eva, daughter of David ap Grou ap Jerworth, of Llai, near Gresford. It had at one time a mansion-house, of some pretensions, and was the seat of the BRERETONS, a family of Cheshire extraction. I have little doubt, from the circumstance just related, though there is no positive evidence perhaps of the fact, that the name of EVESACRE was given to the property when it passed, along with Eva, the fair Cambrian heiress above named, into the keeping of the Hammer family.

There is a BRERETON will, preserved in the Registry at Chester, which I am convinced would, if carefully examined, throw some interesting light on this subject. Perhaps the Editor of THE SHEAF will someday look into the matter a little more fully, and place the result upon record.

F. S. A.

[1429] OWEN GLYNDWR'S REVOLT.

[No. 1383.—Nov. 17]

This interesting account needs only one or two remarks. It is clear that a Council was summoned by Henry IV. to provide means of defence against the gallant Welshmen; and it was settled, by an "Order in Council," that they who held possessions nearest to the enemy should take up their abode there. But when? Well, we may suppose *immediately*; and forthwith mandates were ordered to be engrossed and forwarded to the Sheriff of perhaps all the border counties. The mandates simply recite the Order; and, therefore, there is no ground to suppose that there was any great "timidity" on the part of our ancient lords and governors. The lord of a manor (it may be as well to add) was governor of his lordship, and therefore every county was governed by its lords: some of greater jurisdiction (as the barons), others of less, though whether they were all "worthies" or not, is at least doubtful.

Z.

[1430] OLIVER CROMWELL'S SWORD.

[No. 1890.—Nov. 17]

Dinton Manor House cannot really be "held by the tenure" of Oliver Cromwell's Naseby sword. Such a tenure would be quite 350 years too modern. Even if Cromwell, when Protector, gave the house and estate to be held (by some such inconceivable service) of the State, it would have become void on the Restoration. It is not within the jurisdiction of THE SHEAF to enquire, otherwise the evidence of "some of the original building" of this ancient mansion being of the time of "Edward the Confessor" would be unusually interesting, both to architects and antiquarians.

W.

DECEMBER 22, 1880.

Our Christmas Number.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Dec. 22.—St. James' rebuilt Church at Latchford, near Warrington, consecrated by Bishop J. B. Sumner	1829
" 25.—Lady Lettice Mary Grosvenor, daughter of Earl Grosvenor, born at Saighon Tower, Cheshire	1876
" 26.—Poulton Chapel and Manor sold by Sir George Cotten to Sir Thomas Grosvenor of Eaton, Kt.	1544
" 27.—Railway Collision close to Menai Bridge, the day before the Tay Bridge disaster	1879
" 28.—King Edward I. arrived in Chester on his way to Wales	1277

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1431] THE CHRISTMAS WATCH.

The curious Tenure, by which some of the larger property owners of Chester in ancient times held their lands under the Crown and the Earldom, has already been referred to in THE SHEAF CHRISTMAS NO. for 1878. An interesting Letter from the then MAYOR OF CHESTER to the new Recorder, Sir WILLIAM WILLIAMS, in 1667, is also there printed, and is worth a second reading in illustration of the subject.

The Custom of "Watching the City at Christmas" seems to have arisen almost as far back as the Norman Conquest; when, as tradition avers, a predatory horde of Welshmen fell upon the citizens while they were all enjoying the festive Season. Great carnage ensued, and the invaders not only took large spoils with them from CHESTER, but left a good part of the old city a prey to the flames.

The CONQUEROR and his nephew HUGH LUPUS soon put their heads together to prevent the recurrence of such an unseasonable disaster. The King accordingly granted considerable lands in the City to certain men of valour; who were to hold the same by the tenure of "Watching the four Gates" with a sufficient guard of retainers, fully armed and equipped, during the first three days of CHRISTMAS, in token of their liability to do so permanently should ever the occasion arise for such a service.

For many centuries this picturesque Custom was kept up with fitting barbaric state; the MAYOR AND

SHERIFFS, with the Court of Aldermen, sitting in their formalities at the Common Hall, to swear in the guard, and officially "set the Watch." The Customary Tenants (or Gabel Tenants as they were called) were called forth by proclamation to render homage for their lands: their men were inspected and marshalled by the authorities, and, preceded by pipe and banner, were marched to the four gates; which were all night through kept jealously locked, and ingress and egress alike was refused to all who knew not the pass-word fixed by the Captain of the Watch.

I give to-day, from the earliest record I am acquainted with, a List of the Customary Tenants for EASTGATE STREET only, as they were set down in the first volume of ASSEMBLY ORDERS still preserved at the Town Hall, Chester. The remaining portion, all being well, I trust to be able to print in some future CHRISTMAS SHEAF.

"Here after folowith the gabull Rent w'ch the shereffs be charged with, vewyd An sett forthe in the tyme of the Worshipfull Henry Gee in the fyrest tyme of his marialtie, Anno D'ni 1533, In the xxv'th yere of ye reigne of King Henry ye Eyght.

EASTGATE STRETE.

- | | |
|---|------------|
| (1.) Syr John Talbot, Knyght, for a tenement which now is in the Holdinge of Thomas Ball, Cornif, [horn-breaker], and is the iijth House from fleshmongers lane Westward | xvj'd. |
| (2.) Ser John Talbot, Knyght, for A tenement now in the houldinge of Peris strete, and is two houseys from The Ffleshmongers Lane Estwards | xvj'd. |
| (3.) Elsaabete the balferon, for a tenement now in the houldinge of Robert by the Wall, which is the vijth house from the fleshmongers Lane Westward | xvj'd. |
| (4.) The chantere Prestes of Saynt Annys, now in the Houldinge of Rauff Bostok, and is the iij house from the fleshmongers Lane estwards | xvj'd. |
| (5.) Syr John Porte, Knyght, for a tenement now in the Houldinge of Ad'm Ager, and is the corner house upon thest Syde, at the ende of the fleshmongers Lane | vij'd.ob'. |
| (6.) James Hurlston, fur A tenement now in the houldinge of Rauff Aceton, and is the next house wyth out ye eastgate vpon the north side | ij'd. |
| (7.) Ser Thomas Smythe, Knyght, for A tenement now in the houldinge of Thomas Kempe, corn', and is the vijth House in the fleshmongers Lane from the eastgat stret vpon the West Syde | xij'd. |
| (8.) Thomas Masey, for a tenement now in the houldinge of Cristofor Clerke, and is the thryd house wythout the eastgate vpon the northe syde | j'd.q'. |

(9.) Ser John Downe, Knyght, for A tenement now in the Houldinge of Margerit Gaunyn' in saynt Johnes lane, and is x houseis from the eastgate strete vpon the est side, And saynt Annys landlyethe next vnto it vpon the Southe Syde, And is att... ii'd.ob'.

(10.) Margery Ottéley, for a tenement now in the houldinge of Vic' barker, and is the iij house from Saynt Werburne lane eastward..... viij'd.

(11.) Mayster Doctor bothe, for the butter shopes now in the houldinge of Rauff Rogers and others, that Lyeth nere the northgat strete estwardes vj's. viij'd.

(12.) Will'm Orfow, for A tenement now in the houldinge of the Sayde Will'm, and is vpon the corner of the northgat strete vpon the est Syde..... xij'd."

It is clear that these Rents were irregularly gathered, and that the tenancies in several cases merged into freeholds; for the twelve Gabul Rents in Eastgate Street in 1533 had decreased to four in 1542—when there is another census of them recorded in the ASSEMBLY BOOK of the City.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1432] PLYGAN.

The custom of holding a service in church, called *Plygan* or *Plygain*, at a very early hour in the morning of CHRISTMAS DAY, still exists in some remote parishes of Wales, and was once general in that country. PENNANT, writing about a hundred years ago, speaks of this service as being then usual; and I find several notices of it in the Churchwardens' accounts at GRESFORD, a parish which lies upon the borders, and where Welsh customs might be expected to pass away. Thus, to quote an instance, Edward Partyn, who was Churchwarden in 1739, states in his account that he had

"Paid for candles for ye Plagan 0:2:0"

and there is reason to believe that the practice lingered on in this semi-English district down to the commencement of the present century.

The etymology of the word is perhaps doubtful. *Plygain* is explained by Dr. Owen Pughe as a purely Welsh word, signifying "the return of light"; but the popular derivation of it from *Pulli cantus*, "the crowing of the cock," appears to be adopted by the best authorities. It would be satisfactory to ascertain whether this mediæval Latin term, *Pulli cantus*, was used generally, or only by the inhabitants of Wales, as a substitute for the well-known classical expression which denoted cock-crowing in the days of Horace:—

'Agricolam landat juris legumque peritus,
Sub galli cantum consultor ubi ostia pulsat.

PENNANT, in his *Tours in Wales* (vol. 3, p. 161, ed. 1810), describes the custom as it existed when he wrote. He adopts the popular etymology, and he illustrates it by some verses from "Hamlet," at once so beautiful and so appropriate to the Christmas Number of THE CHESHIRE SHEAF that I copy here the whole of his description. I should say, in fairness, that he seems to have been indebted to BOURNE, who, writing "of the time of Cock-crow," had quoted the same passages in his *Antiquities of the Common People* :—

"Upon Christmas Day, about three o'clock in the morning, most of the parishioners assembled in church, and after prayers and a sermon, continued there singing psalms and hymns with great devotion till broad day; and if, through age or infirmity, any were disabled from attending, they never failed prayers at home, and carols on our Saviour's nativity. The former part of the custom is still preserved, but too often perverted into intemperance. This act of devotion is called *Plygan*, or the *Crowing of the Cock*. It has been a general belief among the superstitious that instantly

'at his warning,
Whether in sea or fire, in earth or air,
Th' extravagant and erring spirit hies
To his confine.'

But during the holy season, the Cock was supposed to exert his power throughout the night, from which, undoubtedly, originated the Welsh word *Plygan*, as applied to this custom. Accordingly, Shakespeare finely describes this old opinion :—

'Some say, that ever 'gainst that Season comes
Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated,
The bird of dawning singeth all night long:
And then, they say, no spirit walks abroad:
The nights are wholesome: then no planets
strike:

No fairy takes: no witch hath power to charm,
So hallowed and so gracious is the time.'

Gresford.

WM. TREVOR PARKINS.

[1438] PLYGAIN AT BANGOR ISCOED.

Thirty-five years ago, when I first went to reside at BANGOR, I formed the acquaintance of an old man of seventy-five, a native of the village, with whom I frequently conversed on the recollections of his youth. Among other things, he mentioned to me a curious and appropriate custom prevalent in the parish when he was a boy, which it may be worth while to record in THE CHESHIRE SHEAF.

On CHRISTMAS morning the old Church would be opened several hours before day-break, for special service and singing, for which the little choir would, weeks before, have been in eager training. The primitive hoop-shandelier of wood in the centre of the Church was fairly made brilliant with an extra score or so of candles; while at the altar, at the bench ends, and round the walls at fitting intervals, similar efforts at illumination found a place. These, adorned with the holly and evergreens, put up as the Season's time-

honoured decorations, gave to the old sanctuary a very cheerful and picturesque effect. At five o'clock the service commenced; long before which the farmers with their families and domestics, supplemented by the villagers, had assembled in unwonted force. There was no organ or even harmonium in those days: a violin or two, a flageolet, a flute, and a bassoon supplied all that was necessary; and the healthy voices of the choir made the Christmas carols re-echo through the building, and back no doubt to the glad hearts of the congregation. A CHRISTMAS DAY thus early and earnestly begun was not likely to be very ill-ended; and we may be sure that "peace and good-will," with a reasonable amount of innocent mirth and enjoyment, reigned in most households in that old-world parish.

My informant told me that this musical early service at BANGOR ISCOED was called THE PLYGAIN; and that a similar custom under that well-known name had prevailed in most of the neighbouring Welsh parishes from time immemorial. There was nothing of the sort at BANGOR while I resided there.

T. P.

[1434] CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES AT CREWE HALL.

The *Gentleman's Magazine* for January, 1803, contains the following, at page 79 :—

"CREWE HALL, long the acknowledged seat of English hospitality, has this CHRISTMAS been the scene of unrivalled festivity. On Wednesday, Jan. 4, there were a splendid ball and supper; to the latter of which near 100 persons sat down. On Thursday, a dinner was given to a select party, and in the evening all the visitors of that and the preceding day were gratified with theatrical amusements; the picture-gallery having been prepared for the occasion, and fitted up in a very commodious style. The performance commenced with a prologue from 'Midsummer Night's Dream,' but altered and made applicable to the occasion. 'Midas' then followed, and went off with the happiest effect; and the reiterated bursts of applause amply spoke the merits of the several performers. 'Midas' was played with the most successful humour. Mysis was animated and judicious, while Nysa would have ensured commendation from the proudest assemblage of London critics. The scene of the celestials was well managed; and Hebe, Venus, and Juno, appeared to influence the hearts of all their mortal gazers. 'Midas' was followed by a new piece written for the occasion, entitled, 'One Bird in the Hand worth Two in the Bush.' It was meant merely as a vehicle for music; the idea, however, is ingenious, and replete with comic effect."

In the History of the Drama, CREWE HALL will ever hold a prominent position as the place where some of the earliest and most complete amateur theatrical performances took place. Wright (*England under the House of Hanover*, vol. 2, p. 356), in remarking upon the general increase in the general taste for the drama, which was exhibited towards the end of the 18th century, adds :—

"And it was evinced in the new fashion for private performances among the aristocracy. The houses where this fashion was indulged in with greatest splendour were WYNNSTAY, the seat of Sir W. W. Wynn; WARGRAVE, the seat of Lord Barrymore; and CREWE HALL, near Chester."

The present is a fitting opportunity for quoting the following Lines, which were said to have been written in an album by Lord PALMERSTON, the father of the late Viscount, while on a visit to CREWE HALL; and which appeared in *The Mirror* for the year 1823 (vol. 2, p. 520):—

"Here in rude state old Chieftains dwelt,
Who no refinement knew;
Small were the wants their bosoms felt,
And their enjoyments few.
But now, by taste and judgment plann'd,
Throughout these scenes we find
The work of art's improving hand,
With ancient splendour join'd.
And far more great the owner's praise,
In whom at once are shewn
The genuine worth of former days,
The graces of thy own."

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

[1435] A CHRISTMAS EISTEDDFFOD IN 1176.

There are writers and critics who sneer at Eisteddfodau as inventions of comparatively modern times, and who ridicule the bardic proclamation of "a year and a day" as a meaningless tradition. It may serve as a corrective to such unbelieving heretics, if the following bit of Welsh history be recorded in THE SHEAF.

RHYS ap Gruffydd ap Rhys ap Tudor, Prince of South Wales, was a restless hero, who, in the face of the Cheshire proverb, that "it is better to marry over the mixen than over the moor," looked askance at the princesses of his native South, and chose for his bride a neighbour of our own, GWENLLIAN veroh Madog ap Maredudd, Lord of Bromfield.

Encouraged by the successes of RHYS in South Wales,—who was an inveterate foe to the English, and was the greater part of his life in open arms against them,—OWAIN GWYNEDD, Prince of North Wales, joined in the revolt, and tried conclusions with HENRY, and thereupon the greater part of FLINTSHIRE fell into his hands.

Of this valiant RHYS ap Gruffydd, the Welsh historian *Gutfaen Owain* tells the following interesting story. He had been long building his new Castle at Cardigan, and, it being now completed, he resolved to open it with all due eclat. With this object he invited a large concourse of nobles from this side of Wales, as well as a number of Normans and English, and he summoned to entertain them the musicians and poets of the entire principality. In the words of the chronicler,

"In 1176 the Lord RHYS made a great feast at CHRISTMAS in his castle of Cardigan, on finishing that fortress; and he caused it to be proclaimed throughout all Britain "a year and a day" beforehand. Thither came many strangers, which were honorably received and worthily entertained, so that no man departed discontented. And among deeds of arms and other shows, RHYS caused all the Poets of Wales, which are makers of songs and recorders of gentlemen's pedigrees and arms, to come thither, and provided chairs for them to be set in his hall, where they should dispute together, to try their cunning and gift in their faculties; when great rewards and rich gifts were appointed for the overcomers. Among them they of North Wales won the prize of poetry; and among the musicians, Rhys's own household-men, and in particular the son of Eytyn the Crythor (harper) were accounted the best."

That was a jovial CHRISTMAS which our Welsh neighbours, and more than probably some of our own Cheshire men also, spent in the castle of the brave Lord Rhys,—englyn and pennillion, cowydd and awdl, mingling with the dulcet music of the harpers in that spick and span fortress at Cardigan.

CAMBRO-BRITON.

Queries.

[1436] LOCAL CUSTOMS AT CHRISTMASTIDE.

The prerogative of THE SHEAF is, I suppose, mainly to look back upon, and to track out the story of, Cheshire's sacred past. But this being your "Christmas Number," I would to-day invite your numerous gleaners in various parts of the county to look for once a little ahead, and to assist, as intelligently as they may, in garnering for your CHRISTMAS SHEAF of a year hence.

Almost every village, certainly every town, in this and the adjacent Welsh counties, has some custom of its own relating to Christmas. Either there is special Service at break of day,—or the Church is dressed in some distinctive way,—or the Bells are rung cheerily on Christmas Eve, or at dawn on CHRISTMAS DAY. Or perhaps the village choir turns out carol singing on the night before, or the members indulge in an anthem at Church on the festal morn.

These peculiarities of practice, and any others, should be carefully noted by correspondents residing in the locality concerned, and sent in to the EDITOR early next month; and I have little doubt he would gladly classify and annotate them in THE SHEAF for CHRISTMAS, 1881. Surely there must be many readers of these columns who would gladly take upon themselves this little labour of love? Had some such plan been adopted, say at the date of the Reformation, what an

interesting article might we now be reading of the local attributes once attaching to this great annual Festival of the Christian Church!

F. S. A.

[1437]

OLD HOB.

What had this ancient individual to do with Cheshire or its neighbourhood? I have heard that he concerned himself pretty much in his day with our local Christmas festivities. It would be worth while looking up the matter in time for a future CHRISTMAS SHEAF.

A WOODMAN.

Replies.

[1438] CHRISTMAS DAY AT THE CATHEDRAL.

[No. 436.—Dec. 25, 1878.]

The incident related two years ago by Mr. HUGHES, from his own boyhood recollections, was described at the time by another pen in the *Chester Courant* of January 3, 1837, as follows:—

"A singular occurrence happened on Christmas Day during afternoon service. The gas, with which the Cathedral is lighted, burnt so dimly that the congregation could see to read with difficulty, as Handel's fine anthem "*The people that walked in darkness*" commenced: till just at the conclusion of the passage, "*have seen a great light*," the gas burst forth again with great brilliancy, to the no small astonishment of all present; and it being Christmas Day, every part of the sacred edifice was crowded. The recitative "*For behold darkness*" was given with great effect by Mr. Geo. Sherwin; and the grand chorus "*For unto us a Child is born*" was sung with great precision by the whole choir. The occurrence, we have no doubt, will be long remembered by those who witnessed it."

L. L.

My attention has been called to an article in your CHRISTMAS Number for December, 1878, bearing the, to me, familiar and friendly signature of T. HUGHES. It refers to a circumstance that has, during the more than forty years since it occurred, been frequently present to my mind, viz:—the singular action of the gas on CHRISTMAS DAY, 1836, during the afternoon service at the Cathedral, whilst George Sherwin was singing the solo portion of Handel's grand anthem, "*For unto us a child is born*." The subject I feel requires some notice from me, as having been a principal, though at that time unconscious, actor in the incident that then transpired.

MR. HUGHES, I am pleased to find, ignores the opinion, very generally entertained at the time, that what took place was intentional, or in other words,

collusive. Strange, however to say, the first intimation I got of the occurrence was from the late Mr. WITTER, a director of the Gas Company, who called next day to ascertain the cause. He told me that the effect of the vagaries of the gas was startling, for that, when the singer uttered the words "*For behold darkness shall cover the earth*," the gas became almost invisible; but that when he came to the passage, "*Upon them hath the light shined*," a sudden and full supply of gas returned! Mr. Witter then asked, "*Was there a preconcerted arrangement to produce the effect?*" I have at this moment a vivid recollection of this interview, as I almost imagined I saw the gaunt figure of the Precentor, the late Rev. JOSEPH EATON, standing behind my interrogator! The Chapter Clerk just named had, only a short time previously, administered a sharp rebuke to me for having irreverently addressed a bill for gas to the Cathedral authorities as "*The Dean and Chapter*," instead of, as I was admonished, "*The Very Reverend the Dean and Chapter*." I trembled therefore to think of what might be the result of such an apparition.

Now for the explanation as given on Mr. WITTER's demand. Of course I scouted with indignation the idea of collusion, which my questioner honorably conceded; and being thus encouraged, I commenced by saying that, induced by the bright and genial state of the weather, and it being CHRISTMAS DAY to boot, I took a stroll on the "*Navigation Cop*:" that, after walking a considerable distance, I turned to retrace my steps, when to my horror I discovered, at or near the SLUICE HOUSE, that I had the key of the valve room of the gasworks in my pocket; and that, as the daylight was fast disappearing, the Cathedral would, to a moral certainty, be in a state of semi-darkness. I started at once to run, arrived at the works, then situated in Cuppin-street, and turned on a full supply of gas, which reached the Cathedral just as Sherwin's fine and powerful voice was proclaiming, "*Upon them hath the Light shined*,"—the previous "*darkness*" being attributable alone to the want of sufficient gas in the main! Thus you have the whole "*bag of tricks*" explained, and will at once perceive that what took place was simply an accidental coincidence, having its origin in the forgetfulness of your present correspondent,

ROBERT JONES, M. Inst. C.E.

Cloverley, West Hill, Putney.

[1439]

A SHRED PIE.

[No. 1897.—Nov. 24.]

This is not a local word, nor is it synonymous with "*squab-pie*," as suggested by "*SENEX*." *Shred* or *Shread*, according to Bailey's *Dictionary*, means "*to cut small, to mince*;" so the "*dyshe of shred pyes*" at BRAMHALL Hall, was probably a dish of CHRISTMAS MINCE PIES. The word is met with in the old poets, e. g.:—

"CHRISTMAS HUSBANDLY FAIR" (Thomas Tusser.)

"Good husband and housewife now chiefly beglad
Things handsome to have, as they ought to be had;
They both do provide against CHRISTMAS do come,
To welcome their neighbour, good cheer to have some;
Good bread and good drink, a good fire in the hall,
Brawn pudding and souse, and good mustard withal;
Beef, mutton, and pork, *shred pies* of the best,
Pig, veal, goose, and oapon, and turkey well dressed.
Cheese, apples, and nuts, jolly carols to hear,
As then in the country is counted good cheer."

And, again, in the following verse from Robert Herrick's "*Ceremony for Christmas Eve*,"—

"Drink now the strong beer,
Cut the white loaf here,
The while the meat is a *shredding*
For the rare mince pie;
And the plums stand by
To fill the paste that's a *Kneading*."

Willaston, Nantwich.

JAS. HALL.

DECEMBER 29, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- Dec. 29.—Nantwich beset by the Royalists from Crewe Hall under Lord Byron 1643
 „ 30.—The Right Hon. Thomas Grosvenor [now Egerton], Earl of Wilton, born 1799
 „ 31.—Terrific hurricane at Chester,—the river Dee rose to an unprecedented height 1833
 Jan. 1.—Sir William Brereton formally demanded the Surrender of Chester Castle and City, but was defiantly refused..... 1645
 „ 2.—Letters Patent, granted by Queen Elizabeth, to Thomas Aldersey to found a Grammar School at Bunbury 1593
 „ 4.—Doddington Hall, Cheshire, besieged and taken by the Royalists 1644
 J. H.

Original Documents.**[1440] BISHOP VAUGHAN OF CHESTER, AND ARCHBISHOP HUTTON.**

The following Letter, addressed by RICHARD VAUGHAN, Bishop of CHESTER from 1597 to 1604 (when he was removed to London), to MATTHEW HUTTON, Archbishop of York, appears in *The Hutton Correspondence* (page 150). The writer begs the advice

of his Metropolitan, a very distinguished prelate, in a matter well-nigh as knotty as the momentous case of Henry VIII. Our two prelates, as became bishops, were on good terms. VAUGHAN had been promoted to BANGOR at the time of the elevation of HUTTON from Durham to York. He presided over a portion of Lancashire, where HUTTON was born. Moreover, HUTTON, in the year 1597, had favourably entertained a request of VAUGHAN's when the latter came to his CHESTER see; for in a letter written by JOHN WHITGIFT, then Archbishop of Canterbury, to Archbishop HUTTON, the former had begged a favour for VAUGHAN in these terms, 2nd May, 1597 (*Hutton Corresp.*, p. 117; Baker's MSS., Camb., vol. xxxiv., p. 380):—

"Salutem in Christo. | It hath pleased her maj'tie to bestowe the Bishoprick of Londo upon Dr. Bancroft; the Bishopricks of Winchester upon Dr. Bilson, Bp: of Worcester; and the B'prik of Chester upon Dr. Vaughan, now Bp: of Bangor.

And forasmuch as it would be very great trouble & charges to him [viz., Vaughan] to come or sende downe for his Confirmation there, he hath intreated me to move you to be content to direct your Commission to some here, for the performing of the same; w^{ch} you may very well doe to some of the Doctors of the Arches, such as you shall best lyke of. The B'prik is but small, and your L: knoweth, that after his confirmation, he must doe his Homage here in person, and take care for his Restitution; And therefore I hartelye praye you to shewe unto him what favor you maye. . . ."

To these personal considerations, VAUGHAN knew the Archbishop to be a man who was soundly learned; though perhaps not aware that he was one who would not hesitate, in the circumstances detailed in the Letter, to take a purely human view of the case. The Letter, which is almost exactly 280 years old, and carries with it good wishes for the New Year, runs as follows:—

"My duty moste humble remembered unto your Grace. My very good Lord, in a pointe of some difficulty, y is thought meet by us of the Ecclesiasticall Commission here to knowe your grave resolution and sage advyse, that we may proceed with more equitie in the cause, and fuller satisfaction to our selves. So yt is (my good Lord) HUGH HARRISON, of the Countie of Chester and pariah of ALDFORD [near Chester], having about eighte yeares paste solemnly married one ALICE COWLEY, with whom he lived after marriage about a moneth, more or lesse; and then buryinge her, married her natural and full sister, with whome he hath lived some seaven yeares at leaste, and hath by her twoe children (as I conceive yt) incestuously begotten;

The said HARRISON alledged for himself and deposest that he never knew the firste, by reason of her sicknes whereof she dyed; and that his cause hath bene before twoe of my prediceors [Bp. Chaderton and Bp. Bellot], and also your Grace's Visitors [at the time of Archbp. Hutton's visitation], and nothing determyned concernynge the matter, ether to allowe or disallowe yt.

I am not ignorant of the difference in judgements of devynes in this case, and howe muche this pointe hath exercised this kingdome; but for myne owne opinion I am resolute, though there be no proove of carnall knowledge of the first (whereof notwithstandinge there are stronge presumptions); yet I hold the mariage with the seaconde to be impious, and so scandalous an example, that yt ought by no meanes to be endured in any parte of Goddes Church. In this case I, for my selfe and in the name of the reste, do instantlie crave in fewe lynes your Grace's resoluco'n, upon which wee purpose to relye, and to proceede accordinglye. And so, submitteing my selfe to your deep judgements, with my heartie wishinge unto your Grace of many newe yeares and prosperous, I humbly take my leave.—**CHESTER**, the seaconde of Jannarye, 1599 [1600].

Your Grace's most humble at commandment,
RIC. CASTERN.

[Addressed] "To the most Reverend Father in God, my very good Lord, the Lord Archbishoppe of Yorke his Grace, give these."

Seal: the arms of Chester, impaling Vaughan, a chevron between three fleur-de-lis.

Stretford, Manchester.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

Notes.

[1441] CORPORATION BANQUETS.

The old Corporation of the "Golden City" of Chester seem to have been at all times renowned for the sumptuousness of their festive meetings; but those given by **EARL GROSVENOR** (grandfather to the present **DUKE OF WESTMINSTER**), when he was Mayor, have never been surpassed.

It was formerly the custom for the new Chief Magistrate to celebrate the occasion of his being raised to the Civic Chair, by inviting his brethren and friends to dine with him at the commencement of his year of office, and again, in like manner, upon **NEW YEAR'S DAY**.

It is to the latter that our attention is, at this season of the year, more particularly attracted; though allusion will also have to be made to the previous banquet, held in November.

In comparison to the numbers entertained, the Bill of Fare for the Entertainment at **WYNNSTAY** at the coming of age of the heir in 1770 (as given in No. 1054 of **THE SHEAF**, March 3, 1880), when 15,000 were present, is almost insignificant. Those who knew the interior of the old **EXCHANGE**, will be enabled to form an opinion of the scene, as described by chroniclers of the day.

On the 5th of November, 1807, the first banquet was given, when a temporary floor was erected in the Town

Hall, so as to be upon a level with the Assembly-room, and the doors of each were taken off. The table in the Town Hall was laid in the form of a horse-shoe, with a table down the centre: on the middle of which, considerably elevated, stood a noble Baron of Beef, weighing four cwt., surmounted by the banner of England, and, round the edge of the dish,

"O! the Roast Beef of Old England.

O! the Old English Roast Beef!

Nov. 5, 1807. God save the King!"

On the same table was also a fine Baron of Mutton, weighing 81lbs., surmounted with his Lordship's Arms neatly painted; and round the edge of the dish his Lordship's motto, "Nobilitas virtus non stemma character,"—likewise a large ornamental salad, decorated with the City Arms, and motto "Prosperity to the Trade of Chester."

On the occasion to which we now more expressly allude, the Baron of Mutton was displaced by a large **CHRISTMAS PIE**, decorated in paste, with his Lordship's, her Ladyship's, and the city arms; and containing three geese, three turkeys, seven hares, twelve partridges, a ham, and a leg of veal, and the whole when baked weighed 154lbs.

The remainder of the Bill of Fare consisted of 4 dishes of codfish and sparlings, 4 dishes of garnet and sparlings, 6 dishes of stewed carp, 20 tureens of turtle, 4 saddles of mutton, 12 French pies, 4 dishes of bombarded veal, 6 dishes of roasted chickens, 1 round of beef, 4 hams, 3 boiled turkeys and oyster sauce, 12 plum puddings, 6 dishes of marinated pork, 5 dishes of ducks, 4 loins of marande mutton, 4 dishes of boiled chickens, 4 neat tongues, 6 dishes of oyster patties, 6 legs of mutton, 4 dishes of guinea fowl, 20 hares, 20 necks of venison, 4 dishes of mutton kibob'd, 2 dishes of teal, 10 venison pasties, 3 dishes of wild ducks, 4 dishes of sweet-breads, 4 dishes of à la mode beef, 4 dishes of collared mutton, 12 lemon puddings, 4 dishes of pigeon compote, 6 dishes of veal olives, 8 pigs, 2 dishes of palates and kidneys, 6 geese, 8 dishes of rabbits, 6 pigeon pies, 14 dishes of partridges, 4 dishes of haricot mutton, 17 dishes of Irish pancakes, 20 haunches of venison, 6 dishes of pheasants, 10 dishes of woodcocks.

SWEETS.

40 salvers of whips and jellies, 30 moulds of jelly, 20 moulds of blanc-mange, 20 moulds of Dutch flummery, 30 tarts, 48 cheesecakes, 12 Chantilly baskets, 48 mince pies, 12 ornamented cakes, 12 dishes of snowballs, 144 puffs.

DESSERT.

30 pine apples, 400 dishes of fruit, consisting of peaches, nectarines, grapes, apples, pears, filberts, &c.

The number of guests that sat down on the 1st of January, 1808, was about 200, and on the first occasion about 300, when a similar "Bill of Fare" had been provided.

The rooms were most tastefully fitted up for these princely banquets; and, besides a number of chande-

liers, they were illuminated with 8000 variegated lamps; and on the centre window in the Assembly Room, fronting his Lordship's seat, were displayed the letters G. R." in variegated lamps.

On perusing this, one would almost be inclined to think the toast of the evening would be "Let good digestion wait upon appetite!"

Ledsham.

R. M.

Queries.

[1442] THE DYMOCK FAMILY.

Is there any one amongst your correspondents who can inform me when the Dymock family settled at Little Acton, near Wrexham? Was it by a marriage with the heiress of that place, or through one of the Dymock ancestors buying the property? These Dymocks were no doubt a branch of the ancient family of "Dymock of Penley" in Flintshire. ALIEN.

[1443] CHESTER AND CHESHIRE DIRECTORIES.

In "The Directory and Guide for the City and County of Chester, with a concise History, &c., &c. Written and compiled by W. Cowdroy, of Chester, printer, 1789," it is stated in the Preface "that no similar production [to this Directory] descriptive of a country so generally famed and so universally spoken of... has yet been offered." From this it was only to be inferred that this was the first Chester and Cheshire Directory published; and so I believed, till I met with one the other day, dated 1781, or eight years earlier. This, which is entitled, "The Chester Guide: &c., &c. To which is added A Directory: containing an alphabetical list of the Clergy, Merchants, Tradesmen, &c., in the City, and Market Towns in the County," was published by P. Broster, but has no date on the title page. At page 77, however, "The Chester Directory, 1781," commences. On comparing these two publications it is obvious that they are quite independent publications, many names appearing in the one which are not to be found in the other. Still it is strange that Mr. Cowdroy, who must have been fully aware of the publication of the 1781 Directory, should have made such a confident statement in his own Preface in 1789. And this induces me to ask is the 1781 Directory the earliest Chester and Cheshire Directory, or are there any earlier ones? Perhaps Mr. HUGHES can tell us!

Withington, Manchester.

J. P. EARWAKER.

[1444] WHOOPING COUGH AND A SKEWBALD HORSE.

A writer in *Chambers's Journal* for the 21st of August last, mentions a strange belief existing in the district between WARRINGTON and LYNN, in Lancashire:—

"If a traveller were met driving a piebald or skewbald horse, and were asked to give or recommend something that was good for the whooping-cough, whatever he gave or recommended would be an unfailing remedy for all the children round about that were suffering from that complaint. Such is the belief indeed of these simple folks up to the present day."

It would be interesting to know whether this superstition exists on the CHESHIRE side of the Mersey, and perhaps some of your readers can give the desired information?

Mow Cop.

G. H.

Replies.

[1445] ARCHDEACON ROGERS.

[Nos. 682, 986, 1838.—June 4, 1879, Jan. 14, Oct. 6, 1880]

Mr. BAILLY indicates pretty clearly in his scholarly Reply on this subject that ROBERT ROGERS, our Archdeacon, was *not* a son of JOHN ROGERS, the Martyr. My own opinion has long been that he was a son of RAFE ROGERS, Sheriff of Chester in 1521, and Mayor in 1534; whose memorial, and that of "LUCY his wife," in stained glass, bearing date the year of his mayoralty, is noticed in HANSHALL's *Cheshire*, p. 308, as once existing in the old timber church of ECCLESTON near this city, previous to its demolition to make way for its present not very happy successor. How otherwise we are to account for the Archdeacon's widow selecting ECCLESTON as the place of her own burial, I am at a loss to conceive, for she was herself a stranger to the county, belonging indeed to the other end of England; and it seems a reasonable inference that, in her long widowhood, she had sought a home amongst her husband's kindred.

If I am right as to the parentage of ROBERT ROGERS, then he was the youngest of eight sons; the next older than he being THOMAS, who was one of the first 24 scholars placed on the Foundation of The King's School, at Chester, when that venerable Grammar School was constituted by Royal Charter in 1541. My assumption that the Archdeacon was born in Cheshire, and in or near to the city, is strengthened by the fact that he was himself a Founder of THE KING'S SCHOOL from Dec. 25, 1544, to Christmas, 1549. His name in the School Accounts, just as afterwards in public documents in the city, was indifferently spelt *Rogers* and *Rogerson*. His widow's monument at Eccleston, given at No. 986 of the present volume of THE SHEAF, tells us that he had 10 sons and 5 daughters; for half of whom I will now account from the Baptismal Registers of ST. OSWALD's, Chester:—

"Zacharye Rogerson, son to Mr. Archdeacon Rogerson, Bapt's 18 octobris, 1580.

Elys: Rogerson, Bapt's 27 Ja., 1582.

Jacob Rogerson, sonne to Mr. Rogerson the p'bend, Bapt's 12 Aprilis, 1583.

Margaret Rogerson, daughter to Mr. Rogerson, preacher, Bapt's 1^{mo} Maij, 1584.

David Rogersonne, sonne to Mr. Rogerson the P'bend, Bapt's 15 Maij, 1586.

Robert Rogers, sonne to Archdeacon Rogers, bapt's 28 Maij, 1587.

Hester Rogerson, daughter to Archdeacon Rogerson, Bapt's 27 Octobris, 1588.

Uve Rogerson, sonne to Mr. Archdeacon Rogerson, Bapt's 25 Octo., 1590."

Probably the baptisms of other children would be found at Eccleston or Gawsworth, but I have personally no acquaintance with those Registers: certainly, none of them, as children, were buried at St. Oswald's, though some of them may have been christened there before 1580, earlier than which the Registers of that parish do not now go.

Mr. BAILEY has indicated 1595-6 as the period of ARCHDEACON ROGERS' death. And now to the question, often before asked, but never answered,—where did he die, and when and where was he buried? The late CANON RAINES says he died at his Vicarage of Gawsworth. Mr. LEYFIELD suggests, with more apparent reason, that he was buried in that ECCLESTON grave in which his widow, 22 years afterwards, was laid. But no!—turning this time to the Burials at St. Oswald's, then registering partly also for the CATHEDRAL, I find the following entry, which settles the point:—

"Mr. Robert Rogers, Archdeacon of Chester, and p'bend of the minster, sep't's 31 Decr', 1595."

Here, then, within the walls of the old Cathedral, under whose shade he had received his early education, where for sixteen years he had served the distinguished offices of Prebendary and Archdeacon; and within the precincts of which he no doubt compiled his very interesting "Breuary of some Collections of the most anchant and famous Cittle of Chester,"—there they laid his bones to rest on NEW YEAR'S EVE, 1595.

T. HUGHES.

[1446] BURT, THE PORTRAIT PAINTER.

[Nos. 1204, 1215.—June 30, July.]

I am not able to throw any light on the family or parentage of BURT; but the following particulars may be interesting to "R. O." and to other readers of THE SHEAF.

I have eight miniatures painted by him. The earliest has, in BURT's hand, on the lower part of the coat, "Burt, 1815;" the latest (I should say of the same person), would be about 1825 or 1826. Five of them are in black papier maché frames; the rings for suspension fastened by ornamental gilt clasps, which are lettered "A. E. BURT, Miniature Painter." One of

the miniatures is in a red morocco case, and was a wedding present: it is highly finished, and shows a great degree of excellence in the artist.

When very young I knew something of BURT, who was in the habit, for many years, of passing some weeks of the summer at that old-fashioned watering-place, PARKGATE. He always resided in the same house, which is the second on the left hand on the road from the shore to NESTON, just round the corner; and in front of which the pathway is or was paved, in small black stones, with the word "Nelson" in white ones. It was the work of BURT, who used to gather the stones along the shore of the Dee, and amuse his leisure hours executing the pavement, and that, too, in almost workmanlike manner.

About two years ago I saw it, and it was then quite perfect, with the exception of the last N in "Nelson;" and which had been encroached on by the erection of a porch to the door of the house.

I always heard that BURT came to CHESTER from London.

W. MONK GIBSON.

Sandymount, Dublin.

[1447]

A SHOYERING.

[Nos. 1362, 1417.—Oct. 27, Dec. 8.]

I see in the last CHESHIRE SHEAF a reply to a former query as to the meaning of the word *Shoyering*.

I have no doubt that the word *shoring*, which is in common use here amongst builders, is immediately descended from it; and, with us, this means a slightly built and always a lean-to part of a house—generally an out-house. The word is so usual here that I should have thought it must be in Wilbraham's *Cheshire Glossary*, but it is not. Nor is it in Halliwell's *Archaic Dictionary*; but I see, in Dorset, the word *shore* means a post used with hurdles in folding sheep.

OGILVIE gives the English word *shoring* as meaning a propping or supporting, which seems to give the clue to the Cheshire word and its Dorset relative.

Tarvin.

J. E. MORETON.

[1448]

W. O. HARLING, ARTIST.

[No. 1402.—Dec. 1.]

Our attention has been directed to some slight inaccuracies in the sketch lately given in our columns of the career of the late Mr. W. O. HARLING.

We are informed that he never studied under Mr. WM. JONES of this city; but that on leaving Cambridge to pursue the vocation for which he cherished an uncontrollable passion, he entered the school of the Royal Academy, and subsequently became a pupil in Paris of Paul Delaroche.

He never was professionally engaged in decorative painting, or so occupied himself, save on one occasion during a visit to a friend in Anglesey, whose walls still display the evidences of the painter's friendly sojourn.

In 1863 he married, went to Italy, and resided abroad until a year before his death (last December); when he returned, broken in health, to England, and with a keen but impracticable desire to spend his last days in or near his native city.

Occasionally he sent subject pictures to the Royal Academy, which were favourably noticed in the different critiques; and one of these figured in the collection of Mr. GLADSTONE, which was sold at Christie's some years ago.

EDITOR.

JANUARY 5, 1881.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- Jan. 5.—Darnhall Grange founded, as an offshoot from the Abbey of Dore, Herefordshire, by Edward I, while Prince of Wales 1278
- „ 6.—Dreadful hurricane at Chester, and great damage done to the Cathedral, St. John's Church, and the City Gaol 1839
- „ 7.—Doddington Hall, in the parish of Wybunbury, seized by the Royalists. 1643-4
- „ 8.—St. John the Evangelist's Church, Threapwood, consecrated by Bishop George H. Law 1817
- „ 9.—Lord Robert Grosvenor [now Lord Ebury], and Mr. John Jervis, afterwards Lord Chief Justice, elected representatives of Chester city 1835
- „ 11.—Col. Brooke's troops, at Barrow, surprised by the Royalists from Chester 1645
- J. H.

Original Documents.

[1449] FUNERAL CERTIFICATES, 17TH CENTURY.

In the days when Heraldry was a reality, and when acquaintanceship with the College of Arms was a more expensive and serious business than it has of late years become, no man of gentle rank was suffered to rest in his grave until an Inquisition had been made of the extent of his possessions, and a Certificate registered as to who were his descendants, but especially who was his next heir.

In CHESHIRE, the RANDLE HOLME family,—father, son, and grandson,—drove a vigorous trade in these Funeral Certificates; and very many of them still exist among the Holme MSS. in the British Museum, and in the Records of Herald's College. The two we print

to day may be taken as fair specimens of this class of documents, and relate, one to a Cheshire, and the other to a Flintshire, family of dignity and repute. We give priority to the Cheshire example, as being the first in order of date, the following being its exact terms:—

“JEFFREY SHAKERLEY, of Shakerley, in com. Lanc., and of Holm and byly [Byley] in the County of Chester, Esqr., Dyed on the xith of f^ebruary in a^o 1619, and lyeth Interred in the Chapple of lower peever, wthin the parish of Great budworth in the county aforesaid. He maryed Jane, Daughter of S^r George Beeston of Beeston, in the County of Chester, Knight; by whom he had yssue, Hugh his sonne and heyre, who maryed [Margaret] Daughter to Tho. Bunbury of Staney, in the County of Chesh'r, Esqr. He had yssue, Peter his sonne and heyre, Robert 3 sonne, John 3 sonne, francis 4 sonne; Jane, Eldest Daught'r, maryed francis Atwood in the County of Wor.: they haue yssue Mary, and han'a.

Elizabeth, 2 daught'r, unmarried 1619. the aforesaid Peter maryed Margrett, daughter to Phillipouldfield, of Bradwall in the County of Chester, Esqr.: they haue yssue Jeffrey Shakerley, the sonne and heyre apparent, Mary eldest daughter.

Peter Shakerley, 2 sonne of Jeffrey, deceased; he maryed, and hath yssue 3 daughters, viz., dorothy, frances and margrett.

Jeffrey, 3 sonne of Jeffrey, hath yssue many children.

John, 4 sonne of Jeffrey, vnmaryed 1619.

Ann, eldest daught'r to the aforesaid Jeffrey, deceased, maryed Henry Bunbury, sonne and heyre to Tho. Bunbury of Staney, Esqr.: they haue yssue, Henry the sonn and heyre apparent, Mary, Elisab', Martha, and Ann Bunbury.

Dorothy, 2 daughter to Jeffrey Shakerley, maryed to Will'm Leigh of Boothes, in the County of Chesh'r, Esqr.: they haue yssue John, sonne and heyre, Elizabeth, and Mary Leigh.

[Signed by] PETER SHAKERLEY.”

It does not say by whom this Certificate was taken. Judging from the writing we should say not by RANDLE HOLME.

The next Certificate relates to a family on the Cheshire side of Flintshire, about whom a Query was, a week or two ago, inserted in THE SHEAF. We shall be glad if anything further as to these Flintshire DYMOCKS should result from what we now print:—

“WILLIAM DYMOCK, of Willington, in the County of flynt, esqr., sonne of Edward Dymmock, of the same place and County, esqr., Departed this mortall life at Willington vpon the 20th Day of March, 1620, and was buried in Hanmer Church, in the County aforesaid. He maryed Margaret, Daughter to William Hanmer, of fenns, in the County aforesaid, esqr., by whom he had yssue 2 sonnes and 4 Daughters.

Humfrey Dymock, his sonne and heire, of the age of 30ti yeares or thereabouts at the time of his father's decease, maryed Anne, eldest Daughter to

S'r Thomas Hanmer, of Hanmer, in the County of Flint, Knight; they have ysaue, Thomas, his eldest sonne, William, seaconde sonne.

Margaret, eldest Daughter: and Mary Dymock, second Daughter of Edward Dymock, seacond sonne to the Defunct, maryed to Robert Tuchett, of Whitley, in the County of Chester, gent.; they have ysaue, William, Thomas, and Ellen Tuchett.

Mary Dymock, seacond Daughter to the Defunct; Magdelyne, 3 Daughter; and Elizabeth Dymock, 4th Daughter.

This Certificate was taken at Willington upon the 22nd day of March, 1620, by Randle Holme, of the Cytty of Chester, Deputy for the office of Armes, and testified under the hand of HUMPHREY DYMOCK, sonne and heire of William Dymock, esqr., Deceased."

We presume that the DAVID DYMCK and WILLIAM DYMCK, to whom reference has been several times made in earlier Nos. of THE SHEAF, belonged to this family. There is, or was, a very ancient monument of the Dymocks, in Hanmer Churchyard, Flintshire.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[1450] THE TROUBLES OF A CHESHIRE PARSON IN THE CIVIL WAR.

The miseries attendant upon the great Civil War fell more or less equally on all classes, the monarch and the craftsman, the peasant and the peer. Nor were the clergy in any degree exempt from the excitement and dangers of the times; their lives and properties, despite their peculiar vocation, were no more really safe than those of soldiers in the field. The CHESHIRE parsons had in very many instances the mortification of seeing their churches and rectory houses sacked without mercy, their incomes destroyed, and they themselves fugitives from their flocks and their homes; and, being non-combatant, they were quite powerless to help themselves or their families.

CHESTER, by virtue of its being a royalist garrison, became a place of refuge to many of these unfortunate clergymen; and amongst them was the gentleman whose sufferings form the text of the accompanying Letter from the pen of his son, a native of the old city. The story is told with considerable force, and gives a vivid picture of the privations our ancestors had to face in the presence of a mad and virulent national struggle for power.

The Letter appeared in a recent volume issued by the Chetham Society, *Nathaniel Walworth's Correspondence*; but I have thought it highly deserving a place in THE SHEAF, especially as Mr. J. E. BAILEY has considerably added thereto a little series of illustrative

notes. I print half the Letter to-day, and will give the concluding portion next week:—

Addressed "for the Reverend Mr. John Walker at his Rectory at St. Maries in Exeter."

Rever'd Sir, In pursuance of a promise I formerly made in a letter to Mr. Webber, (a.) I have here sent you ye following account of my most honoured Father's sufferings in the late times of rebellion and confusion; wherein, though perhaps I may be under some mistakes, in not adjusting every passage to it's proper time, or mis-nomen of some persons mention'd in it, yet I have not wittingly and knowingly trespas'd upon ye truth in any material part of my relation, which I hope you'l therefore peruse with candour, as follows:

The Reverend Mr. Willm. Seddon (my most honoured Father), M.A. of Magdalen Coll., in Camb., being about the year of our Lord 1636, settl'd a preacher in one of ye parish churches, I think St. Maries, in ye City of Chester, was then also possess'd of a Vicarage at Eastham (about 6 miles distant from y't City, value 68*l.* per annum) where he liv'd with his wife and family in a very happy condition, till ye Civil war's breaking out: and ye Parliaments forces drawing on to besiege Chester, he was compell'd to withdraw his family and effects into ye City for succour, where his great and good friend and Patron, ye Lord Bishop Bridgeman, then Lord Bishop of Chester, accommodated him with several rooms and lodgings in his own Palace; and yet the aged Biahop, dreading the hardships of a siege, voided the place, leaving my Father in his Palace, who continued diligent in his ministry, and frequent Preaching to ye Garrison there. And the City being closely besieg'd and frequently storm'd, my Mother was on ye 12th day of Octob. 1645, delivered of me her 9th child, (all the 9 then living), and said to be ye last y't was publicly baptis'd in ye Font of y't Cathedral there, before ye restoration in 1660. The City being surrendred (b.) upon Articles, my Father was shortly apprehended and made Prisoner; and after some short durance, was demanded by ye prevailing Powers, why he had not, according to ye Articles of surrender, march'd off with ye Garrison to ye King's Quarters: to which he reply'd, y't he thought his easock had unconcern'd him in those Articles, being a Minister in ye City; but above all, he had a wife, and many small children there, which if he could see tolerably dispos'd of he would, not unwillingly, accept the Articles; but

a. Mr. Webber. Registrar to the Archdeacon of Exeter. He is called "gentleman, of Exeter," on the list of subscribers to Walker's *Sufferings*.

b. As to the siege and surrender of Chester, commissioners were appointed to treat on the 30th January, 1645-6; the articles were dated on the 1st February; and the city surrendered on the 5th. The articles refer to ministers in these terms: "Every captain of foot, esquire, graduate, preaching minister, gentleman of quality, the advocate and secretary to the army, every of them with his own horse and swords, the ministers without swords, none of them carrying with them above fifty shillings, and the ministers to have all their own manuscripts of notes and evidences."

many complaints being made against him, y't he had in his preaching reflected upon the proceedings of the prevailing party, and had animated ye Garrison to resist even unto blood &c, he was remanded to Prison again, and his house permitted to be plunder'd by ye souldiers, who despoiled him not of his goods only, but of his books and papers, which they exposed to sale at a very low rate; and so by private directions to some of his friends, he repurchase'd some of the most necessary for his own use: but then an order was drawn up to export his wife and children out of ye City to Eastham (which accordingly was done, several of ye younger sort being put in a wagon with other goods which had escap'd the pillage): where though they had only ye bare walls of a Vicarage house to resort to, yet they found a hearty welcome from ye loial part of the parishioners there, amongst whom they dispers'd themselves; and in a short time after, my Father's confinement was somewhat enlarg'd, and his escape conniv'd at, which gave him ye liberty of going in quest of his wife and children, whom he found in pretty good circumstances amongst his loial friends; but another minister (whose name and character I have utterly forgot) being dispatch'd with orders from ye ruling powers at Chester to supply the vicarage at Eastham, (c.) and a rumour dispers'd, y't my father must be apprehended again and reduc'd as prisoner to Chester, he scamper'd about privately to the houses of ye loyal Gentry, to whom his character and condition were well known; and then despatched a letter to his elder Brother, Mr. Peter Seddon at Outwood in Lancashire (ye place of my Father's nativity), who was then, at ye rate of ye times, turn'd zealous Presbiterian too, and had a son a Captain in ye Parliaments army; acquainting him with ye storm he was under, and requesting him to

c. *Eastham*. The Dean and Chapter of Chester placed Seddon here. An entry in the Pariah Register states that Wm. Seddon, M.A., was inducted into the Vicarage in Feb. 1637-8. [*Ormerod*, new edit., t. 407, where there is an account of the vicar.] That authority states that the minister who disturbed him in the possession of Eastham was "unquestionably Richard Banner," named in the list of Vicars; but this, if we follow the dates in *Ormerod*, pp. 407-8, appears to be a mistake. Banner conformed at the Restoration and, as we take it, died Vicar of the Pariah, 6th Dec. 1685. It was a celebrated nonconformist, named Muroot, who took Seddon's place, as the dates will shew. John Muroot studied divinity for some years under John Ley, the well-known Vicar of Budworth. He was a Bachelor of Arts of Oxford, 30th May, 1647; and he was ordained at Manchester, 9th Feb., 1647-8, by Warden Heyrick and others, his destination being Astbury. "Continuing not long there, he was [before June, 1648] called to Eastham in Wyrral in Cheshire, where, before he was quite settled, he took to wife at 25 [?] years of age, one Hester, the daughter of Ralph Marsden, minister of West Kirby in the said county; but before the consummation of marriage, the people of the said place (Marsden being dead 30th June, 1648) gave him a call, where he preached the gospel to the beloved people of God." In 1648 (June), as minister of West Kirby, he signed the Attestation of the ministers of Cheshire. Thence he removed to Chester; and died in Dublin in 1654.

cover either all or part of his family, till he could weather ye storm; to which letter ye main of ye answer he had was y't, would he conform himself to ye Godly party, (d.) his own merits would protect and prefer him, which so insens'd my Father y't he never more held any correspondence with him."

T. HUGHES.

(To be completed next week.)

[1451] PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION OF
CHESTER, CITY AND COUNTY.

(Continued from No. 1597.)

39 Elizabeth (1597).

Summoned to meet at Westminster, 24 October, 1597.

Dissolved 9 February, 1597-8.

PETER WARBURTON, Esq., Sergeant at Law.
WILLIAM BROOK, Esq.

Elected 12 September, 1597.

PETER WARBURTON, Esq. See Parliamt. 28 Elizabeth, 1586.

WILLIAM BROOK, Esq., (the Parliamentary Blue Book gives the name as "Brook," which is most probably an error), the third son of Thomas Brook, of Norton, Esq. (ancestor of the present Sir Richard Brooke, Bart.), by his second wife, Elizabeth, sister of Thomas Merbury, of Merbury, near Comberbaoh. Thomas Brook was Sheriff of Cheshire in 1578 and 1592.

43 Elizabeth (1601).

Summoned to meet at Westminster, 27 October, 1601.

Dissolved 19 December, 1601.

HUGH GLASIER, Esq.
THOMAS GAMULL, Esq.

HUGH GLASIER, of the Lea, Backford, was the second son of William Glasier, who represented Chester from 1571 to 1583. He continued Member till his death in 1609, and was elected Mayor of the city in 1602.

THOMAS GAMULL, Esq. This gentleman was eldest son of Edmund Gamull, of Buerton, in Nantwich Hundred, and of Chester; who died in 1616, having been Mayor of the City in 1585. This family, in the time of Edward I., were of Knighton, Staffordshire, but in 1 Henry VIII. were at Buerton.

THOMAS GAMULL was born in 1571, appointed Recorder in 1605, after Thomas Lawton, who succeeded him in the representation of the city, and died August 11th, 1618. He had married Alice, the widow of David Lloyd, D.D., daughter of Richard Bavand, who had represented Chester in a previous Parliament; her third husband was Edward Whitby, who also had the honour of being both Recorder and Member. His brother William was Mayor of Chester in 1608, and founder of the Gamulls of Crabwall.

Ledsham.

R. M.

d. The italicised words about the godly party are underlined by Walker, who has written opposite to them, as if in indignant astonishment, "swine Bro.!"

[1452] TRAVELLING IN BYGONE DAYS.

From the *Traveller's Miscellany*, the following will interest the readers of THE CHESHIRE SHEAF:—

"Prior to 1820, the Holyhead mail left London at eight at night, and arrived in Shrewsbury between ten and eleven the following night, taking twenty-seven hours to run one hundred and sixty-two miles.

This distance, however, before the establishment of railways, was done without difficulty in sixteen hours and a quarter. At the time when this rate of travelling was considered all that was required, there was a Coach on the road between SHREWSBURY and CHESTER, called the 'Shrewsbury and Chester Highflyer.' This coach started from Shrewsbury at eight o'clock in the morning, and arrived at CHESTER at about the same time in the evening, the distance being about forty miles.

This was a good hard road for wheels, and rather a favourable one for draught. 'But how,' inquires a writer in the *Quarterly Review* for 1832, 'can all these hours be accounted for?' Why, if a 'commercial gentleman' had a little business at ELLERSMER, there was plenty of time for that; if a 'real gentleman' wanted to pay a morning visit on the road, there could be no objection to that. In the pork-pie season half-an-hour was generally consumed in consuming one of them; for Mr. Williams, the coachman, was a wonderful favourite with the farmers' wives and daughters all along the road.

The coach dined at WREXHAM, for coaches lived well in those days; they now live upon air; and Wrexham Church was to be seen—a fine specimen of the 'florid Gothic,' and one of the wonders of Wales! Then WREXHAM was also famous for its ale; there were no public breweries in those days in Wales; and, above all, the inn belonged to Sir Watkin.

About two hours were allowed for dinner, but 'Billy Williams,' one of the best-tempered fellows on earth, as honest as *Aristides*, was never particular to half-an-hour or so. 'The coach is ready, gentlemen,' he would say, 'but don't let me disturb you if you wish for another bottle.'

Wrexham.

LANDWOR.

Queries.

[1453] THE LAST OF THE MINSHULLS.

It is a tradition among some outlying members of this ancient Cheshire family, that the last male representative of the MINSHULLS, of Church Minshull, was murdered by highwaymen on his return from his marriage. Is there anything of truth in this family tradition, and if so, what were the circumstances? I see no trace of such a calamity in the *History of Cheshire*. Nearly every old family has either a murder

or a ghost, or both, associated with it; so, if the Minshulls are entitled to the like honour, by all means let it be placed on record. H. S. A.

[1454] NANTWICH CHURCH PLATE.

I want to obtain the dates, and if possible some description, of the Communion Plate now in use at NANTWICH Church. Probably the present Rector would not object to give a few particulars on this subject in the pages of THE CHESHIRE SHEAF?

J. WILKINS, M.A.

[1455] THE REV. EDWARD EMILY.

This gentleman was one of the nine founders of THE TARPORLEY HUNT, in 1762. How came he, apparently a stranger to the county palatine, to be so prominently connected with "The Cheshire" of that day? Is anything further known of him, either as a Sportsman or a Parson? When did he cease to be a member of The Tarporely Hunt? REYNARD.

Replies.

[1456] SALT PANS FOUND AT NORTHWICH.

[Nos. 50, 94, 262, 812.—May 22, June 12, Sept. 18, 1878, Sept. 10, 1879.]

Since I wrote my former note on the LEADEN PAN, a very much smaller pan has been discovered by Mr. THOMAS WARD, at the works of Messrs. N. ASHTON AND SONS, on the north-east side of the town, measuring 23 inches square on the bottom, 8½ inches deep, weight 83 lbs.

But a further light may be brought in favour of a supposed Roman origin of the Leaden Pan previously discovered, from the fact that, during very recent excavations on the spot where the two pans were found [one of which was cut to pieces and destroyed], traces of the paved Road from CHESTER to the ford over the River WEAVER were uncovered, also horns and various bones, including the head and tusks of the wild boar—showing a very ancient occupation of the same site. The continuation of this same Roman road in a direct line to STRETTFORD strikes near the works of Messrs. Ashton, where the last discovery was made, and this road has now been uncovered in three places.

I think that the evidence derived from these sources and the very extensive proofs of early Roman occupation of the heights above this town, as the early denarii found here, compared with the accounts given in the "Erdswick" MSS., confirm the ancient opinion that in CASTLETON (or Castle Northwich) we have the intermediate station of Antoninus, between *Deva* and *Mancunium*.

Northwich.

JOHN WESTON.

[1457] HIGDEN'S POLYCHRONICON.

[No. 1427.—Dec. 15.]

From the invaluable Reports of the *Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts*, I gather that MS. copies of this work are in the following libraries:—

- The Advocates' Library, Edinburgh. 14th cent. (1 Report, 123.)
 John Tollemache, Esq., [Lord Tollemache], Helmingham Hall, Suffolk. 15th cent. (*Ibid.* 60)
 The Countess Cowper, Wrest Park, Beds. Circa 1400. (2 Rep. 4.)
 J. R. Ormsby-Gore, Esq. (now Lord Harlech), Brompton, Salop. 15th cent. (*Ibid.* 86.)
 The Marquis of Bath, Longleat, Wilts. 14th cent. (3 Rep. 182.) Another. 14th and 15th cent. (*Ibid.* 183.)
 University of Glasgow Library. Two copies, and a third, by Trevisa. (*Ibid.* 424.)
 Trinity College, Dublin. Three copies. (4 Rep. 596.)
 Col. Towneley, Towneley Hall, Lancashire. 14th cent. (*Ibid.* 414.)
 Pembroke College, Cambridge—probably. (5 Rep. 484.)
 The Marquis of Exeter, Burghley House. By Trevisa. (6 Rep. 234.)
 Sir H. Ingilby, Bart., Ripley Castle, York. The translation. (*Ibid.* 352.)
 There is a copy in St. John's College Library, Cambridge. (Cowie's Cat. p. 4.)

Doubtless the Catalogues of our great Libraries, which are not here accessible, will supply many more.

Buckland Brewer. JOHN I. DREDGE.

JANUARY 12, 1881.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- Jan. 12.—The Rev. John Graham, LL.M., Registrar of Chester Diocese, and son of Bishop Graham, died at Abbot's Grange, Chester..... 1873
 „ 13.—St. Mary's new Burial Ground, north of St. Bridget's Church, Chester, consecrated by Bishop C. J. Blomfield 1825
 „ 14.—Henry Booth, Lord Delamere, tried for High Treason, and acquitted..... 1685
 „ 16.—Thomas Wilson, a native of Burton in Wirral, and author of *Sacra Privata*, &c., consecrated Bishop of Man..... 1697
 „ 17.—John Tollemache, of Peckforton Castle, Esq., M.P., created Baron Tollemache of Helmingham 1876
 „ 18.—Royalist forces defeated near Christleton J. H. 1645

Original Documents.

[1458] CONSTABLES' ACCOUNTS FOR CREWE.

It must be understood that the following extracts from "*Crew Town Books*" relate to the Township of CREWE in Barthomley Parish, with its lands and farms immediately surrounding that proud "*Hall of ancient days*," called CREWE HALL; and not to the recently built town of CREWE, which, excepting its Railway Station, in in the adjacent township of MONKS' COFFIN HALL.

The "*Town Booke*," a paper volume in parchment back, containing Constables' Accounts for forty years, from 1679 to 1719, states on the first page:—

"This Booke is to be Kept by Mr. Thomas Smith, of Crew, Gentleman, for every Constables to enter their Accounts herein at the time of their Departure from their offices, 1679."

The accounts for that year are as follows:—

"October the 6th, 1679.

The true and pfect Accounts of Henrey Weener and Thomas Butterton, Constables for the Townships of Crew for the years Aforesaide, as followeth:—

	li.	s.	d.
Impr: Received Hearth Money	4	16	00
Rec ^d Hearth Money.....	4	16	00
Rec ^d the first quarterly payment	3	15	08
Rec ^d the second, [third and fourth quarterly payments]	11	07	00
Rec ^d three Mixes	3	06	00
Rec ^d for prisoners and Meaimed soulders	1	10	03
Rec ^d for Traind [trained] soulders	0	18	11h.
Ye total...	30	10	6h.

The Disbursements are as followeth:—

	li.	s.	d.
Impr. paid for Hearth money.....	4	16	00
paide for Hearth money.....	4	16	00
paide one quarterley payment	3	15	08
paide [three others]	11	07	00
paide for prisoners & meaimed soulders	0	14	07
paide another time to ye aforesaid prisoners & meaimed s. (meaning "maimed soldiers")	0	14	07
paide for Traind soulders	1	00	06
paide for ye prisoners in ye oomon geol & Kings Bench	0	06	10
paid for Bridges	0	06	08
paid for Bridges	0	03	07
paid for Bridges	0	12	06
paid for Bridges	0	05	04
paide for Bridges.....	0	15	08
paid for Stockes & pinfould ...	0	10	08

paid for a Booke for the townes use	0	01	10
paid for Ingrossing our Accounts	0	00	06
The Sum of our Receipts is	30	10	6hf.
The Sum of our Disbursements is	30	07	8
Theire Remaines in hour hands	00	02	10hf.
Which Remainder wee haue paid to the succeeding Constables."			

Hearth-money was a tax on the number of hearths or chimneys, collected from the occupiers of every dwelling throughout the land. There are cottages and farm-houses still having fire-places only on the ground floor, that were probably built when this tax was felt to be a great grievance. Poor cottagers, who frequently could not pay, had their goods distrained by the unmerciful *chimney-men*, who, like the publicans of old, were farmers of the tax, and were universally disliked. An old ballad says—

"The good old dames, whenever they the chimney men espied,
Unto their nooks they haste away, their pots and pipkins hide;
There is not one old dame in ten, and search the nation through,
But, if you talk of chimney men, will spare a curse or two."

The last time this tax was gathered in CREWE was in the year 1684, the total amount being £9 19s. 0d., five years after, the tax was abolished by Act of Parliament, 1 Will. and Mary [1689].

The "*Quarterly payment*" is called in 1689 the "*Six month's Tax*," realising to the Revenue (perhaps for the navy) in that year £15 2s. 4d.; after which date this tax is not again mentioned.

By the *Mise* was meant a certain fixed valuation, which from ancient times had been imposed on every township, and which sum was the basis of calculation when a rate was required. Thus the *mise* of CREWE was fixed at £1 2s. 3d.; and in 1679 three *mises* (£3 6s. 9d.) were collected for town purposes. In 1710 nine *mises*, i.e. £10 0s. 3d. (though £10 1s. 9d. is recorded as being collected) were necessary to meet the town expenses. According to the Overseers' Accounts about the same time, poor's rates were raised in the same way; generally 12 *mises* in the year.

Two hundred years ago the only standing army recognised by law was the rustic soldiery, raised in every township, under the name of Trainbands or the Militia. It was a very popular institution, and once a month met for drill, officered by some local gentleman; here probably by Mr. CREWE, of Crewe Hall. Once a year the Militia of the surrounding district was called up for drill and inspection, at some pre-arranged meet-

ing place. From what follows, it will be seen that the Crewe Militia consisted of three men,—viz., one pikeman, and two musketeers, who also carried a sword. Frequent mention is made of the "Shooting Butts"; and under date October 17th, 1715, is the following Memorandum:—

"It is this Day agreed att a publick meeting of the towne, y^t Every treaned Soilder for ye time to come shall have twenty pence a day for Every Day hee shall be on Servis; and find him Self powder & Bullets out of itt, and at the end of Every muster, to Return their armes and coates in to the Constables handes; and if the Soilders be Sufficient men that dwell in the town and doe not ware their coates nor abuse their armes, they may keep their armes them Selfes, and be allowed 6 pence a yeare to Keep them Cleane, and fitt for Servis, or Else the Constable to keep them cleane & be allowed the same.

Andrew Forde Richard Oulton
Henry Henbury Edward Minshall
Mat: Whittney."

Dryden, in his *Cymon and Iphigenia*, ridicouling the country "blustering band" of Militia, says—

"They stand prepared
Of seeming arms to make a short essay,
Then hasten to be drunk, the business of the day."
But from the modest sums spent on muster days, and at other times, the soldiers and constables of CREWE certainly did not get drunk at the town's expense.

Willaston, Nantwich.

JAMES HALL.

1459] THE TROUBLES OF A CHESHIRE PARSON IN THE CIVIL WAR.

(Continued from No. 1459.)

"But in his perambulac'ons amongst ye loialists, conducted by ye good hand of Providence, he mett with one Mr Bratherton, a Lancashire gentleman and a hearty Cavalier, with whom he had former acquaintance; and who by virtue of a deed of trust from one Mr Byrom, a gentleman y^t was slain in the King's service, had the donac'ion of a Parsonage call'd Grapnall (which was then vacant by ye death of one Mr Richardson its incumbent) and the presentation to this Rectory he freely tender'd to my Father; perswading him, with all possible secrecy and expedio'ion, to post up to ye Commissioners or Tryers of Ministers, which accordingly my Father did; and upon examinac'ion was by them approv'd and recommended to ye Rectory of Grapnall, a Parsonage

Grappenhall.—Ralph Richardson, Rector of Grappenhall, was presented 7th Oct., 1635. In 1648 he still signed the registers.—*Orm*. i., 800-1.

The Tryers sat in London. Much about the same time Adam Martindale, of Roostherne, went up to London on a similar business, 23rd July, 1640, and relates in detail his intercourse with them.

Mr. Byrom, slain in the King's service, was Henry Byrom, of Byrom, Esq. He was killed at Edge Hill in 1643, being Major to the Regiment of Foot under Richd. Lord Molineux.—*Dugdale's Visitation*.

worth about 130*li* per annum at 16 or 18 miles distance from Chester and bordering upon Lancashire; Here he settl'd and fix'd himself, well accepted and beloved by his Parishioners, so y't he had time to recollect his dispersed Family, and enjoy'd a calm: but this could not be durable, he was soon haunted with the old rumours of a dangerous delinquent, a malignant &c: and this grew up into menaces of articles and complaints, and at last into a moral assurance y't one Major Brooks a Parliamenteer officer (whose malice he had formerly experienc'd) intended shortly to seize and apprehend him; which caused him for a time to abscond and afterwards, upon overt attempts made upon him, to flee into Lancashire, where he was by some friends recommended to one Mr Fleetwood of Penwortham (a parish situate near to a great market town call'd Preston, and about 22 miles distant from Grap'nall in Cheshire); who being a very loial gentleman and impropiator of ye tyths of y't parish, entertained him in ye quality of a chaplain, or curate, to preach at y't little church near adjoining to Penwortham Hall; Here my father fix'd again in this gentleman's house, entirely beloved of his patron (who allowed him 40*li* per annum) and of all his parishioners; and having intelligence out of Cheshire, y't my mother, whom he had left at Grap'nall with a strict charge to gett ye place supplied and keep possession as long as she could, was with her family ejected ye Parsonage house there, and a new Rector, one Mr. Bradshaw, a rigid Presbyterian (whether by appointment of comm'oners or usurpation I know not) put in, he acquainted his Patron Mr. Fleetwood with it; who thereupon order'd a poor cottage house at a little distance from his own Hall, to be fitted up and added 3 or 4 acres of ground to't, to keep a couple of cows: and here, as in a little ark of rest, my Father seated himself with his wife and 9 children, supported and maintain'd by ye good hand of Providence, which order'd him still ye 40*li* pension from his Patron, and large gratuities from ye Loyalists in those parts, whose children he privately baptiz'd and perform'd other ministerial offices at their requests, according to the antient forms of ye church; which tho' it gave him sometimes ye trouble of musquetiers to guard him into Preston as a Prisoner, yet upon ye mediation of the neighb'ring Gentlemen he was soon dismiss'd and return'd to his family to recount his hazard, with his *olim meminisse juvabit*; and tho' in all this time he had not any allowance of a 5th, or any ye least part, from either his Parsonage or vicaridge in Cheshire, nor any temporal estate whatever, yet he liv'd cheerfully and contentedly and saw many of his children comfortably dispos'd of: and presently upon ye Restoration in 1660, he ejected Bradshaw again, who, though a rigid Presbyterian,

Mr. Fleetwood, of Penwortham, was John Fleetwood, who died in Feb., 1657-8. From 1645 onward the profits of the Rectory of Penwortham were sequestered from him for delinquency, but he compounded for his delinquency in Nov., 1647, by a money payment.

Thomas Bradshaw got possession of the Rectory of Grappenhall in 1653 (*Ormerod*, i. 600) As Seddon was

yet he then trimm'd up and got another benefice call'd Lym, in Cheshire, where I think he dy'd; And my Father being restored to his Rectory at Grapnall resettl'd himself and his family in the parsonage house there, where he and my mother (ye constant partner of his sufferings) aged each of them about 70 years, departed this life, both in one month and lye buried both in one grave in their chancel there, A.D. 1671.

Thus S'r I have recounted those sufferings wherein you'l find me not altogether unconcern'd: and tho' by reason of my minority and ye lack of memoirs in writing (for I was in ye station I now am at ye death of my Parents, and so could not have my fathers notes) I have made but an imperfect relation of them, yet I dare avouch ye truth of my relation as to all ye material and substantial parts of it: for I was born nurs'd and train'd up under those dispensations, which I think may be allow'd good and even sensible, grounds in me for belief of what I have writt, and render it unsuspected by men of candour and ingenuity; and now, if upon your perusal of this paper you find anything, which you adjudg incoherent or impertinent, pray cancel and cover it; but if anything worth publick notice, pray make use of it, and may God succeed your endeavours to his own glory, and ye peace and unity of the divided church is the hearty praier of,

S'r

yor. assured Friend and affectionate Br. in the Lord,
EDWARD SEDDON.

Throwley [Devon], July 10th, 1704.

If you think fitt to move any further queries about ye p'misses, transmit them by Mr. Webber."

T. HUGHES.

[1460] PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION OF CHESTER, CITY AND COUNTY.

1 James 1. (1603-4).

Summoned to meet at Westminster, 19 March, 1603-4.
Dissolved 9 February, 1610-11.

living at the Restoration, Bradshawe, of course, retired. His appointment to Lymm (Leigh Molety) is noted in *Ormerod* (i. 594); he died in 1675. From the absence of Bradshawe's name in the records of ahe Presbyterians, I am inclined to soften the harsh term applied by Edward Seddon to the successor of his father. Thomas Bradshaw may perhaps be identified with one of his names who gave some trouble to the Presbyterian classes of Bury, Lancashire. On the 15th November, 1649, he was summoned to attend the Presbyterian conclave at Bury "to give satisfaction concerning his preaching without approbation of his Class." Not having appeared he was again summoned 15th Jan., 1649-50. He appeared on 14th Feb., and promised to procure and bring a certificate from the Class whences he came against the meeting of the Class in April. No appearance, however, is recorded. From the *Church Survey* we gather that he was still at Littleboro', 18th July, 1650, when the Commissioners returned but a negative testimony about his character and relations to the ruling powers. He then disappears from Lancashire. One . . . Bradshaw was Vicar of Weaverham in 164 . . . (*Orw. II.*, 117).

"*Olim meminisse juvabit*" are the closing test of line 283, bk. i. of the *Aeneid*.

THOMAS LAWTON, Esq., Recorder of Chester.
HUGH GLASIER, Esq.

Date of Election, 20 February, 1608-4.

THOMAS LAWTON, Esq., was appointed Recorder on the resignation of Richard Birkenhead, a former representative of the city, through infirmity.

THOMAS LAWTON, Esq. See *Parliament*, 43 Elizabeth, 1601.

During this Parliament the death of Hugh Glasier took place, involving another Election in the city; the return for which, as given in the *Parliamentary Blue Book*, is in this instance undoubtedly incorrect, as it is thus given—

"John Bingley, Esq., vice Hugh Glaseor, Esq., deceased.

Date of Election, 24 September, 1610."

Browne Willis does not refer to this circumstance at all.

Ormerod and *Hemingway* both give a correct return, namely, KENRICK AP EVAN; and yet there is very little doubt that John Bingley was a candidate, as in a letter found by Mr. J. C. JEFFERSON among the muniments in the Chester Town Hall, and given by the Editor of the *THE SHEAF*, in *extenso*, in No. 370, addressed to the Mayor, Recorder, and Aldermen, &c., he offers himself as a candidate for his native city, under date 18th of August, 1610.

There is a paragraph (also in the above article) taken from a MS. List of Mayors and Sheriffs, which says—

"1609. The 6 July, Mr. HUGH GLASIER died at London, where he attended as one of the Burgesses in Parliament for this City. The 13 July, KENRICK AP EVAN was chosen in his place."

From the above it would appear that Hugh Glasier had been dead more than twelve months before the receipt of John Bingley's letter, which seems rather improbable; while the date (24 September, 1610) given in the *Blue Book* coincides a great deal more with the date of the letter.

KENRICK AP EVAN was an Innkeeper in the city, and served the office of Sheriff in 1604, but does not appear to have been Mayor. He died August 16, 1618.

Ledsham.

R. M.

Queries.

[1461] THE BATTLE OF REDCOTE BRIDGE.

A number of Cheshire gentry and their retainers are said to have fallen at the Battle of REDCOTE BRIDGE in 1387. Where can I find the best account of this fight, especially with regard to its local associations? I remember seeing in *THE SHEAF* a list of the Cheshire squires and yeomen who fought at POICTIERS;—is there

any similar list available of the Chester combatants at REDCOTE (otherwise Redcot) BRIDGE?

A WOODMAN.

[1462]

THOMAS CRANE.

This gentleman in 1788 (when serving as Minister of St. Olave's Church, Chester) published a sketch of Dean SMITH. And in that work he states—

"In the year one thousand seven hundred and forty six party was very high in Chester. The Tories were headed by Sir ROBERT GROSVENOR, of Eaton, Baronet, the Whigs by JAMES MAINWARING, of Bromborough, Esquire, Baron of the Court of Exchequer for Cheshire; both persons of fortune and character, both much respected. A certain Clergyman libelled Mr. MAINWARING, who resented the affront by pulling him by the nose: which occasioned the following Epigram on PARSON PARRY":—

EPIGRAM.

DUNSTAN, with forceps strong and tight,
As popish legends tell,
Caught Satan fairly by the nose
In Glassonbury cell.

O Chester Folk, how you'd have laughed
At miracle so quaint;
To see poor Devil stamp and twist
When hampered by the saint!—

And yet a Layman brave and bold,
No Popish Saint, I ween,
Serv'd him again the self same trick,
As you yourselves have seen.

"You joke!—took Satan by the nose,
And pull'd him hard?" "Aye, marry!
The Barrow's knuckles held him fast
In spite of Parson Parry."

Mr. CRANE was born, it is said, near Newport, in Salop, and if any of your readers can give some account of him I shall be glad: all the more so, if they can also tell us something more about Mr. JAMES MAINWARING and PARSON PARRY.

R. G.

Replies.

[1463]

FAT MISTRESS VESSEY.

[No. 1214.—July 7.]

Our fair correspondent, "LUCY D. T.," gives us,—I will say that much for her,—some rather hard nuts to crack. I had indeed quite despaired of seeing any Reply to the Query about this "fat Cheshire woman" living in Ireland, as no reference to any such body could be recalled by me, despite my many years of purely local reading and study.

To-day, however, there comes a note to me from a distant reader of these pages, drawing my attention to the very first volume issued by the "Chetham

Society of Lancashire and Cheshire," in the year 1844. It is entitled *Travels in Holland, The United Provinces, England, Scotland, and Ireland*, 1684-5, by SIR WILLIAM BRERETON, bart., and was edited for the Society by the late Mr. EDWARD HAWKINS, F.S.A., Keeper of the Antiquities in the British Museum, and a native of Macclesfield.

Sir WILLIAM BRERETON seems to have met the corpulent lady in question during his Irish travels, and to have been immensely struck with the appearance of one who claimed kinship with the Cheshire Breretons; but in what degree he either knew not, or omitted to set down in his Diary, and the pedigrees of the family in *Ormerod* give us no help towards her identification.

On the 7th July, 1684, Sir William in his tour had reached the town of DUNDALK, of which he gives a short notice, and says, at page 133—

"Here we lodged at one M^r's Veasie's house, a most mighty fat woman: she saith she is a Cheshire woman, near related in blood to the Breretons; desired much to see me; so fat she is, as she is so unwieldy, she can scarce stand or go without crutches. This reported one of the best inns in north of Ireland; ordinary, 8d. and 6d., only the knave tapster over reckoned us in drink."

In a sort of summary at the end of his book, which Sir William Brereton heads as "A journal since my coming out of Cheshire," he denotes his progress from day to day; and, again under July 7, records—

"7. To Newrie [from Dromore] 12 miles, where we baited at a good house, at the sign of the Prince's Arms: thence to Dundalke, 8 mile; all this bad way to find, on stony hard way. Here we lodged at a fat widow's house, her name is M^r's Veasie; and this reputed and reported one of the best houses for entertainment in the north of Ireland. She is a Cheshire woman."

This is probably all that can now be told about this extraordinary woman; unless indeed a search in the parish register at Dundalk should give a clue to her maiden name at the time of her marriage, and it would almost certainly record her death.

T. HUGHES.

[1464] ST. STEPHEN'S WELL, CHESHIRE.

[No. 1269.—Aug. 18, 1880.]

This Well may probably be identified with the "New Found Well," as it was in the 17th century called, situate about a mile and half south westward of "the Chamber" in the Forest of DELAMERE. For in a description of the latter in Halliwell's *Palatine Anthology*, p. 91, I read as follows:—

"I have heard likewise some persons of no means account report, that there are within this countie some credible recordes which might be produced, wherein mention is made of an ancient Well, within the precincts of Delamere, that many years past was esteemed of great vertue and efficacies; insomuch as, the same beinge dedicated by the first Christians

which had use thereof to holy Saint Stephen, the same still beareth name (in the said records) of SAINT STEPHEN'S WELL; and by circumstances therein gathered, it is said that this late found Well may be likely to be the same; whereof, having no further proof that as yet I can attaine unto, I leave it as doubtfull."

I should like to know from some one well acquainted with Delamere Forest, whether any such Well or Wells as are above described now exist in the Forest; and if so, whether any medicinal virtues are in the present day claimed for them, and especially as to whether there be any popular resort thereto by invalids?

A WOODMAN.

JANUARY 19, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- Jan. 21.—Gullden Sutton old Church, Cheshire, shattered in the great storm..... 1802
 „ 22.—Destructive fire at the Dee Mills, Chester: one mill entirely destroyed, —damages estimated at £3,000 1847
 „ 23.—Tarpotley Free School founded by Jane Done, of Utkinton 1662
 „ 25.—John Thomason, Master of Tarvin School, a very distinguished penman, died there 1740
 J. H.

Original Documents.

[1465] CONSTABLES' ACCOUNTS FOR CREWE.

(Concluded from No. 1458.)

Resuming the extracts from the *Town Book* of Crewe, the following Disbursements are here given as illustrative of customs, laws, and passing events in a rural district of Cheshire in times long ago:—

Disbursements.

	k.	s.	d.
1680. P'd to Ellin Shaw for 4 Criples 2 nights	00	05	00
„ Given to 2 more Criples w'ch had a passe	00	00	04
1681. P'd the trained soldiers 2 days pay	00	08	00
„ P'd for repairing ye sword & belt	00	00	09
„ P'd to the Muster Master.....	00	01	06
„ P'd for mending a Musquett ...	00	01	00
„ It. Given to 8 p'sons who had a Breefe for fire	00	01	00

1683. paid to John Dunster for the			
[3] souldiers Coates	04	04	06
„ paid for three saashes	00	09	00
„ paid for two hats and two pare			
of stockings	00	12	09
„ paid for making 3 coats	00	09	00
„ paid for the repare of the pike	00	01	02
„ given to passangers [vagrants]			
at severall times	00	02	00

Similar entries occur most years.

1684. It. payd for stockinge Tho:			
Lathams Musquet, & mending			
the lock.....	00	03	04
„ payd for mending the Crow nets	00	00	06

In the reigns of Henry VIII. and Elizabeth, Acts of Parliament were passed for the destruction of birds. Every township was required to provide crow-nets and other things necessary for destroying birds; and anyone bringing three heads of old crows, rooks, choughs, &c., or six heads of young ones, was to receive a penny. In later times, the practice of stringing birds' eggs, commonly indulged in by children and youths, was probably a relic of this cruel law. People living in this township 200 years ago would never witness, what may now be seen every afternoon at this season of the year, viz., the congregating from distant rookeries of thousands of birds to CREWE woods for shelter and security.

1685. It. spent at four dayes training			
on ourselves and the souldiers	00	02	00
„ It. payd for a poulder [powder]			
horn.....	00	00	06
„ It. payd for the repayre of a			
scabat [scabbard]	00	00	06
1687. Dec. 14, payd Edward Minahall			
for mending the hawkins hill			
Bridge.....	00	04	00
1688. payd Tho: Lindop for Iron for			
the pinfould	00	01	01

There is frequent mention in the Book of repairs to the Pinfold.

1689. Spent on souldiers and men we			
warned into Nampwich.....	00	01	10
„ spent a fetchinge the Armes			
whom [i.e., home]	00	00	04
„ spent when we went about the			
first great Lay to Nampwich	00	03	00
„ spent at Nampwich About the			
pole	00	02	00

These last entries relate to a Highway Rate and the Election of Overseers.

1689. paid to Thomas Whittney upon			
the account of drawing the			
Kinges Carages [i.e., baggage			
at a muster of the Militia]....	00	02	00
„ payd for mending Matthew			
Wintley's bandelears	00	00	04
1690. payd for a sett of Bandlears....	00	02	04

“Bandeliers” were “little wooden cases covered with leather, each of them containing a charge of powder for

a musket: of which every Musketeer usually wore twelve hanging on a shoulder-belt or collar.”—*Bailey's Dictionary*.

1690. p'd half a Mize for the releife			
of the poore of Namptwiche...	00	11	01ob.
„ spent at Namptwich on the			
Assesser for the renew of the			
pole and other business.....	00	01	00
„ spent at Namptwich vpon three			
prest Teames [i.e., teams			
pressed into service].....	00	01	00
1692. p'd for Listinge [enlisting]			
William Shaw	00	01	00
1696. payd for a warrant for the col-			
lect'r of Berths [births]	00	00	06

By Act of Parlt., 6 and 7 Will. III., cap. 6, 1694 duties were imposed upon “Births, Marriages, and Burials, for the term of five years, for carrying on the War against France with vigour.”—(See Burns' *History of Parish Registers*, page 30.)

1697. spent att A publiok meetinge at			
Stowforde	00	01	00

Stowford is in Crewe township, near Crewe Hall Lodge.

1698. Spent at Namptwich vpon the Assessors of the windows..... 00 02 06
The window-tax was imposed by Act of Parliament in 1696. This barbarous tax on the light and air of heaven remained in force until 1851; the Assessors being commonly called *Window-peepers*.

„ Payd to the Justices clarke for			
writinge a scedule & warrant			
for windows	00	00	06
1706. P'd for Timber for the repare of			
the Stocks.....	00	03	06
„ for the repare of the pinfoulde			
for makeinge up the shuttinge			
Butts	00	00	04
„ Spent at Barthomley on the			
Crowners Jury.....	00	01	02
1706. Jan: 26: paid for fetchinge ye			
Coron'r when Randle Bas-			
ford was killed.....	00	03	00
„ Jan: 28: p'd ye Coronor.....	00	06	06
1708. Laid out in Building a Pinfould.			
p'd to Mr. Smith for 2 trees to			
make Railes for ye pinfould...	00	10	00
„ p'd to Edward Minahall for			
Building ye pinfould	01	10	00
„ p'd to Thomas Basforde for			
leading Timber for ye pinfould			
and Clay to lay about ye pin-			
fould posts.....	00	07	06
1709. p'd to ye teams y't went to Draw			
ye Queens Carrage [militia			
baggage] from Namptwich to			
Chester	00	10	00
„ p'd for a muskett.....	00	14	06
„ p'd for a flask	00	00	04
„ p'd ye Muster Masters pay for			
one year, being 6d. p'r man ...	00	01	06

"	p'd ye Train soulders Cd. a peice for cleaning their armes	00	01	06
"	p'd for grinding a sword	00	01	00
"	p'd John Minshall 2 days pay at 1s. 8d. a day	00	03	04
"	p'd Wm. Shaw 2 days pay at 1s. 8d. a day	00	03	04
"	p'd John Withinhaw 2 days pay at 1s. 6d. a day	00	03	00
"	spent when we [John Within- shaw & Henry Henbury, the constables] bought a muskett	00	00	06
"	spent when we went with ye train soulders	00	00	06
1710.	p'd to Wm. Twamlow for Timber to make ye Crewe Mill Bridge & ye Hawkins hill Bridge	03	05	00
1711.	spent att 12 months meetings ...	00	02	00
"	spent at 3 weekly meetings for pressing soulders	00	00	06
1714.	p'd Tho: Cartwright for Repare of Shaderhill Bridge and stone and lime	00	07	00
"	spent on the Coronation day [of Geo: I:—Oct. 20, 1714]	00	04	06
1715.	p'd for a workmans Diner and owne att ye Sessions to make afadavit about ye Bridge	00	02	00
"	Givin to a soldener at Crew hall	00	00	06
"	giuen to two Sea-men with a Letter of Request	00	01	00

These accounts close with the following memorandum:

"December 5, 1719.

It is this day agreed att a meeting of the towne,
that if the Constables for the time being shall suffer
the treaned Soulders Coates or Armes to be any way
abused, the[y] shall be liable to make good the
Dammage att their owne proper Cost, as witness
our Hands.

James Smith
Matt: Whitney
Richard Oulton
Thomas Basford."

Willaston, Nantwich.

JAMES HALL.

Notes.

[1466] REV. JAMES UPTON.

As a Cheshire author and celebrity, the Rev. JAMES UPTON well deserves a place in THE SHEAF.

He was Master of the Free Grammar School at Taunton from the year 1730 to 1742. In Toulmin's *History of Taunton* (edit. of 1822, by Jas. Savage), there is the following short biography of him at pp. 202-3:—

"He was the fourth son of a gentleman of Cheshire, and was born at WINSLOW, in that county, Dec. 10, 1670. He was educated at Eton, and became

a fellow of King's College, Cambridge. Mr. UPTON afterwards returned to Eton at the request of Dr. Newborough, the head master, and was appointed tutor to Sir William Wyndham, Bart. He married a lady of a respectable family in that neighbourhood, of the name of Proctor, by whom he had several children. From Eton he removed to Ilminster, in this county, upon the invitation of the Earl Poulett, (who soon afterwards appointed him his chaplain), and several respectable gentlemen of the county, where he remained a few years, and taught the learned languages. From Ilminster he came to Taunton, and all his pupils with him; and here so great was his fame, and so well deserved, that he soon became Master of the largest provincial school at that time known in England, amounting to above two hundred boys, almost every gentleman of distinguished fortune and abilities, of this and the neighbouring counties, having received his classical education under him.

In 1712 he was presented to the rectory of Monk-silver, in this county; and after he became Master of the school in Taunton, he served at the Parish Church of Bishop's Hall for many years. He died at Taunton on the 13th of August, 1749.

In the year 1696, Mr. UPTON published, at Cambridge, an excellent edition of Aristotle's *Art of Poetry*, with notes. In 1702, he published at Eton *Dionysius Halicarnassensis*; and in the year 1726, his *Ποικιλὴ Ἱστορίᾳ* a most useful and much approved selection of passages from Greek authors, with a Latin translation. He was the author of several single sermons upon particular occasions, and republished, in 1711, Ascham's *School-master*, with notes."

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

Mr. UPTON graduated B.A. at King's College, Cambridge, in 1697, and M.A. in 1701. The *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1749, has the following short obituary notice of him:—

"Aug. 13. Rev. Mr. James Upton, master of the free school in Taunton, an eminent grammarian, publisher of *Dionysius Halicarnass. de Structura*; &c., with a Latin version, *Aristotle de Arte Poetica*; Ascham's *Schoolmaster*, &c., aged 79."

And on the same page of the *Gentleman's Magazine* appears the following, dated only four days later:—

"Aug. 17. Charles Upton, Esq., son of Rev. James Upton, before mentioned, Captain in the Navy."

EDITOR.

[1467] NEW YEAR WATER.

On New Year's morning my bedroom door was opened early, and my landlady's little boy came in with a small tin of water and a twig of box to sprinkle me with "New Year Water."

This, I am told, is an old custom in this part of Wales—a twig of box or rosemary being *de rigueur*—

and it is curious in this stronghold of Nonconformity to see such a distinctly Roman Catholic custom kept up. I am unaware if anything of the sort prevails within the district represented by **THE SHEAF**.

I have seen in Corsica (and I believe the custom holds in many primitive parts of the Continent) the Priest of the Parish and his attendants go from house to house on New Year's Day sprinkling door, staircase, and rooms with Holy Water, thus invoking a blessing on the place, while the householder puts his offering, for the priest's benefit, into the vessel of Holy Water.

There is some old religious rhyme, a remnant of Roman Catholic days, which was anciently used here in giving the "New Year Water," but unfortunately I cannot learn the exact words.

Tenby, S. Wales.

H. A. BRYANS.

[1468] **MAJOR FADDY'S LEAP.**

I well remember this officer, while he was stationed at **CHESTER CASTLE** with his battery of Artillery, and that he was regarded as a splendid rider across country. *The Chester Courant* of May 10, 1836, thus records one of his hunting exploits:—

"**EXTRAORDINARY LEAP.**—The following leap was taken by Mr. FADDY of the Royal Artillery, upon his bay gelding, with Mr. Leche's hounds, on the 5th April, near **EATON HALL**, Cheshire. The horse, carrying twelve stone, cleared twenty-eight feet over a brook of twenty-five feet of running water, and after a severe run of an hour without a check."

No doubt greater leaps are on record in the history of the chase, but the circumstances attending this seems to give it an especial claim to be put on local record.

T. HUGHES.

Queries.

[1469] **EBBING AND FLOWING WELL.**

RANULPH HIGDEN, the Chester monk and historian, is said to have written a Latin distich, the burden of which, freely translated, ran as follows:—

"Near Rhuddlan ebbs and flows a well
Twice every day. Why? None can tell."

Though the monk knew not the reason, if the fact itself were true, probably later investigations by men of science have ascertained the cause. Where is this particular spring?

A WOODMAN.

[1470] **THE CHESHIRE ROUND.**

This was once a very popular dance, and is frequently referred to by old authors. What were its characteristics compared with other dances, and is it known who

invented the "figure"? If any description of the "Cheshire Round" be now available, I should like to see it tied up in your local "**SHEAF**."

L. L.

[1471] **LORD CHELMSFORD.**

The late distinguished peer, almost better known as Sir Frederick Thesiger, sitting on a Cheshire appeal case in the House of Lords, said incidentally during the proceedings that he was himself of Cheshire descent. Will some local genealogist kindly unravel this point for me, and state the evidence on which the learned lord based his claim as one from the county palatine?

SERNEX.

[1472] **THE UGLY HAG OF NANNERCH.**

Who was she? The features of a beautiful woman are, often enough, the subject of adulation in verse as well as prose; but what was the Nannerch hag's claim to literary immortality?

CAMBRO-BRITON.

[1473] **HIGGLEDY PIGGLEDY, MALPAS SHOT.**

Most Cheshire natives are acquainted with the tradition that one of our kings, staying at Malpas during his *incognito* progress through the county, received certain courtesies from the curate of the parish which the rector of the period disdained to share in. The king thereupon made himself known, and, using the above words to give a sort of emphasis to the act, divided the Rectory in twain, giving one half to the lucky curate; and there have ever since been two Rectors of Malpas!

I should like to know the ins and outs of this story, and to learn if it has any counterpart elsewhere in the county, or even in the kingdom?

J. WILKINS, B.A.

Replies.

[1474] **HAWARDEN PARISH BOUNDS.**

[No. 1149.—May 19.]

Amongst the Depositions taken by Commission from His Majesty's Court of Exchequer, on April 1, 11th Charles I. (1635), Robert Brown, clerk, being plaintiff, and Robert Leigh and Thomas Davies, of Gwysaney, defendants, the Commissioners sitting at Hawarden Castle, the metes and bounds of the parishes of Hawarden and Northop were ascertained and set out, and the Tithes of the two parishes in like manner placed on record. This Commission met mainly to enquire as to the recent enclosure of the lands then and still known as Ewloe Wood, and which were declared by the plaintiff to have been recently and without right enclosed

by the defendants. I suppose the defendants maintained their right of enclosure, for the manor and estate of EWLOE, including the picturesque remains of Ewloe Castle, are the property of Philip Davies Cooke, Esq., of Gwyneaney, and of Owston Hall, near Doncaster.

I am unable, from personal knowledge, to describe the boundaries of Hawarden Parish; but if your correspondent "A WOODMAN" can obtain a copy of the evidence taken in 1635, when Robert Brown first took charge of his Rectory of Hawarden, there will be little difficulty, I suspect, in identifying the then Bounds with those still claimed as such by the parishioners of HAWARDEN.

H. S. A.

[1475] OLIVER CROMWELL'S SWORD.

[Nos. 1390, 1430.—Nov. 17, Dec. 15.]

I noticed, a week or two ago, that one of your correspondents took a covert objection to the statement in Mrs. LECHE's Reply, upon the Cromwell Sword preserved as an heir-loom and emblem of tenure at Dinton, Bucks. I am not interested in this question other than as a reader of THE SHEAF; but having very recently been looking over Murray's *Hand Book for Berks, Bucks, and Oxfordshire*, published in 1860, I have found the following paragraphs, seeming very much to corroborate Mrs. LECHE's remarks. At page 89, it is recorded that—

"Dinton is still held by tenure of Oliver Cromwell's Naseby sword; and there, in a cave, dwelt the mysterious Dinton Hermit, who was believed to have been the executioner of the King."

And again, at page 116—

"Close by Dynton Church is the *Manor House*, lately restored, containing portions of a building of the time of Edward the Confessor, but chiefly built temp. Henry VII., by Archbishop Warham, who resided there: his arms, with those of the King, are to be seen in the stained glass of the hall window. Among the pictures is a very fine portrait of Oliver Cromwell, who stayed here while Charles I. was at Oxford; and the estate is held by tenure of his sword, the same which he used at Naseby."

I gather therefore that your lady correspondent was not entirely without authority in the Reply she sent to you in November last.

G. T.

[1476] STANLOW ABBEY.

[No. 1414.—Dec. 8.]

In the series of engravings of Ancient Edifices, published by S. and N. BUCK, in 1727, there is one entitled, "The South View of a Religious Ruin, near CHESTER." It bears the following inscription:—

"These Remains seem to have been founded on a Religious acc't, and is situate on rising ground, near ye River Marsey. Near this place are the small Remains of STANLOW, formerly a Monastery of Monks, translated from hence to WHALEY ABBY,

by reason of their dislike to the situation, which probably may have been the reason of this being early demolished."

Aston.

F. MARSDEN.

JANUARY 26, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- Jany. 26.—New Volunteer Drill Hall, on the site of the Albion paddock and bowling green at Chester, officially opened by Lieut.-Colonel Humberston 1869
- „ 27.—John Bradshaw, Lord President, and his brother Commissioners, sentenced King Charles the First to death..... 1648-9
- „ 28.—Henry the Eighth, Royal Earl of Chester, born..... 1491
- „ 30.—Randle Holme the elder, buried in St. Mary's Church, Chester 1654
- „ 31.—Grand Conservative Banquet at the Volunteer Drill Hall, in honor of Mr. H. C. Raikes, M.P., at which 700 sat down 1873
- Feb. 1.—Bowyer Edward Sparke, D.D., enthroned Bishop of Chester..... 1810
- J. H.

Original Documents.

[1477] ROUNDHEAD TROUBLES AT WARRINGTON.

(Continued from No. 1401.)

From Dr. KENDRICK'S MS. Stores, we give a few other Letters to Sir WILLIAM BREBETON, the Parliamentary Commander for CHESHIRE. They show two points rather prominently: first, that the feeling against Col. JOHN BOOTH had not much abated in the Roundhead conclave at Warrington, and that BREBETON himself, though his brother-in-law, was not free from doubts as to BOOTH's good faith.

BREBETON and his subordinates were evidently much exercised about the movements of the King and the Princes, who, he quite anticipated, would be down upon him out of Shropshire before he could heal differences, and get his forces together to give the Royalists battle:

"To S^r WM. BREBETON.

S^r,

Wee thankfully acknowledge yo'r greates care towards this County in sending us yo'r Intelligence, and wee have given Intimacon thereof to ye rest of ye Gent' of this county, who have appointed a gen'all meeting at CHORLY to-morrow; after w^{ch} wee shall

be better able to give you Informac'on of our Resoluc'ons, in ye meane tyme all our endeavours shall be used for ye answwing of ye expectac'on of ye Committee of both Kingdomes.

Wee intreate you to p'sist still in giving us notice of what further intelligence you shall receive, either of ye enemies moc'ons or intenc'on, w'oh shall engadge us upon all ocoations to evidence ourselves,

Yo'r Reall and Assured
freinds and servants,

Manchester,
May 15, 1645.

THO. BIRCHN,
ROW. HUNT,
RICH. HAWORTH.

S'r,

Wee desire to know yo'r purpose, if ye King march on; that, if you intend to come into ye feild, our forces may joyne w'ith yo'rs in some convenient place. And if not, that you would dismissee Coll. ASHTON's Regt. to returne into the County for ye better strenghteneing therof.

We desire you to certifie us whether that any of ye Parlt's forces follow ye Reare of ye Kinges Army."

Col. JOHN BOOTH naturally repudiates the doubts placed on his courage and fidelity; and it seems likely that BREERTON, writing to Sir GEORGE BOOTH his father, then stationed at WARRINGTON, had, in a letter to the old man, been harping again on his son's unstable mood. The Colonel thereupon addresses his General and Commandant in the following terms, which indicate no lack of loyalty to the prevailing cause:—

"To S'r WM. BREERTON.

S'r,

I have seen a letter of yours to my father, importing the aproche of the King and Princes, w'ith a Potent Army:—what you heare more of them, I desire yo' would be pleased to impart by this bearer, and what yo' desire to be donne by ye Lancashire Gentlemen, whoe are all to bee heere this day.

If yo' please to request mee and my Regyment from them, I shall bee in readinesse to sacrifice my selfe for the remission of my Countrey, notwithstanding any misconceipts that may bee had of mee; and what ever your oppinion may bee concerning mee, yet I shall not refuse to take hands with yo' in this businesse, to the uttermost hazard of my life and fortunes; now beeing the time wherein I may have the happinesse to manifest my Love to the Publique, and, if you please, [am]

Your affectionate Brother in Law,

J. BOOTHE.

Warrington, the
19th May, 1645."

This Letter of Booth's was evidently written with the cognisance and advice of the Boundhead Council at WARRINGTON, who had seemingly made their peace with him, probably in view of the near approach of the King's Army, about which all concerned were, as it would appear, in a bit of a scare. Accordingly the military committee in the Lancashire border-garrison, address themselves to Sir WILLIAM BREERTON, as follows:—

"To S'r WILL. BREERTON.

S'r,

Although Collonell JOHN BOOTHE did this day, in the name of us all, write unto you desiring the speedy returne of Collonell ASHTON's Regim't; for which wee doubt not, but in respect of our p'sent condic'on and our former promise yo' have already given speciall order; yet in regard of the King's speedy march and the condic'on of LIVERPOOL, touching which wee referr yo' to the relation of the bearer, and for the supply whereof wee intend that Regim't; wee have thought fitt againe to send unto you, and earnestly intreate yo' w'thout all delay (if they bee not already marched) to dismissee them for LIVERPOOL.

At this Generall Meeting a l're from the LORD FAIREFAX to yo'selfe was p'duced intending [intimating] an intention of an exchange for S'r THOMAS TILDSLEYS. Now for the better confirmac'on of a former answer to you in that busines, wee are informed by Collonell CHUTTLEWORTH that an order of the House of Com'ons was in his hands, which hee sent to S'r John Meldrume, whereby it was ordered that hee should not bee exchanged, or released; and therefore (as alsoe because of the greate p'judice such an eminent man might doe, to the publike in his malignant Countrey, in a time of greate danger), wee dare not give way against the sayd order.

S'r, wee desire yo' will please to give us intima-co'n of what Intelligence you have, and yo' shall thereby engage us to remaine

Your affection' friends and servants,

RICHARD SHUTTLEWORTH,
J. BOOTHE,
PETER EGERTON,
JOHN STARKIE,
ROBT. HIDE (NOBBURY?),
THOMAS BIRCHE,
RICHARD HAWORTH,
ROWLAND HUNT.

Warrington, May 19, 1645."

We shall perhaps next week return to this subject, giving a few other Letters still further explaining the ticklish position of affairs at Warrington, Liverpool, and on the Cheshire border. EDITOR.

[1478] MARKET-CROSS MARRIAGES.

In the Commonwealth days, when Marriages in Church were looked upon as little less than an abomination, there was no such thing as Sunday morning "asking the banns," nor was the Bishop or his Chancellor recognised in the granting of Licences to Marry. The *modus operandi* with the artisan and the poor of that epoch is best described in the following document culled from the Register Book of St. OSWALD's Parish, Chester, access to which has been kindly given to me by Mr. COGSWELL, the present Rector:—

"Richard Hughes of Newton, in ye Countie of Chest'r, Smith, and Jane Worrall of Shurlach, in ye same countie, Widdow, vpon the 20th day of Sept

1654, tendared unto the Wor^l William Ince, Ald^{rm} & Justice of peace within the Cittie of Chest^r, a certificate subscribed by Tho: Humphreys, Notarie Publiq^u, & Parish Regist^r of Peters, in Chest^r afforesaid, intimating that an Intenc^on of there Mariage was published in the Market place within the said parish of Peters three market days in three severall weekes; whereupon hee p^rmitted them to solemⁿise there said Mariage, according to ye forme proscribed in an Act of Parliam^t; which was p^rformed in ye p^resence of Hugh Butter, William Milington, John Hughes, Arabella Dewsbury, witnesses p^rsent at ye s^d Mariage."

The Register Book for HOLY TRINITY par^{sh}, Chester, supplies another example of the kind, going a little more into detail on one or two points:—

"Vpon the 22nd day of June, in the year 1654, a marriage between William Mulieneux of Neston, in the County of Chester, Mariner, and Margaret Bellin of Thornton, in the same county, Spinster, was solemnised before the Worshipful John Johnson, Esq^r, Alderman & Justice of Peace within the City of Chester, and publication of an intention of that marriage having been first published, at the Market Cross in Chester, three market days in three severall weekes, that is, the 7th, the 14th, & 21st days in the month of June, in the said year 1654; which Mariage being performed by the said William and Margaret, according to an Act of the late Parliam^{nt}, the said Justice of Peace pronounced them thenceforth to be Husband and Wife, in the presence of Thomas Humphreys & Robert Dentith, witnesses present at the said Mariage."

The Market Cross at Chester, where these Commonwealth Banns had been duly proclaimed, stood at the foot of the stairs leading up alike to St. Peter's Church and to the Pentice Court, at which latter the parties interested would most likely appear to have their respective unions ratified by the then law.

It is difficult to realise in the present day that, in that confined area between St. Peter's Church and Eastgate Row South, there projected into the roadway the massive High Cross, and the civil hall of justice and entertainment then known as "the Pentice"; and that there also, every Wednesday and Saturday, the public market was regularly held! How all this was managed—how the traffic was conducted;—how the stage-coaches and "flying machines,"—worse still, how the stage waggons and market carts, private chaises and sedans,—ever threaded their tortuous way through such a surging crowd and such a babel of human sounds, is a perfect mystery to me, and will probably be little else to the great majority of my fellow citizens.

The mode of celebrating and registering Marriages by Licence in the days of the Interregnum, has been amply set forth in the Marriage Lines of the Rev. Peter Leigh, the Roundhead Vicar of St. Oswald's, printed in full at No. 1328 of THE SHEAF.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1479] LOCAL FOLK LORE.

THE CHESHIRE WIZARD.

DICK SPOT lived at WHITCHURCH, Salop, but was, I think, a native of Cheshire. I do not know the date of his death, but fancy it must have been early in the present century. It was generally believed in the two counties that he practised the "black art." Whatever was lost or stolen, DICK was usually consulted professionally, and things were often restored to their owners in a most mysterious manner,—in fact, DICK's name was quite a terror to evil-doers.

During the winter season, a century or so ago, the farm servants of Cheshire were much employed in spinning wool for linsey, to make gowns and petticoats, also linen for household purposes, such as bed-ticks, sheets, table cloths, &c. These were usually put on the grass or garden hedge near the house, to bleach. One night a roll of linen was missing from a grass-plat, familiar enough to me in my younger days. There being no apparent sign of its return, the farmer made known his intention of consulting DICK, who, he said, "would make them bring it back over hedges and tops of trees!" The delinquent had no notion of being treated in such an unceremonious and repulsive manner, so stealthily replaced the linen where he had found it, which was, of course, just the result that the owner expected and desired.

In FOREGATE STREET, Chester, not far from the *Old Royal Oak*, lived a bachelor who had placed in a bag £300, and put it, as he thought, safely away in his desk. One day he discovered it was gone. He strongly suspected one of his neighbours, no one else having access to his back premises. He made it known that on a certain day he should go to WHITCHURCH to consult DICK SPOT. He hired a horse from one, borrowed a top coat from another, and fixed five o'clock next morning for his departure. However, that same night, the front door flew open, and the bag was thrown in to the middle of the floor, with the missing money in it, safe and sound!

I once heard a strange story, which I had from an old gentleman well known in this city. In his younger days he resided in Christleton. Having placed a sum of money, amounting to upwards of £200, in his desk there, he went away from home after having safely looked up his house. On his return, he found his money gone. He went off at once to DICK, who said, "Go to an inn for the night; I will see what I can do in the morning." He accordingly did so. Next morning DICK said, "Thou wilt never get a farthing back; it is all spent." Dick then brought a glass, such as Doctor Dee is represented to have used in his day, bidding him look into it. He did so, and saw, as he

believed, the face of a man well-known to him—in fact, a near neighbour. DICK then asked him if he remembered one Sunday night reading the Bible and going to sleep, the Bible falling to the floor, and then his suddenly awaking to see a man getting out of the window? DICK stated, without hesitation, that that was the man! He remembered the circumstance well, exactly as Dick had stated to him, and nothing was afterwards heard of the money; doubtless only another evidence to his mind of the wonderful knowledge of the Cheshire Wizard! Belief in sorcery is still a long way from extinct among the lower orders of the county.

POLYANTHUS.

Queries.

[1480] WITTHENSHAW BELL.

What I should be inclined to fear is "a cock and bull story," comes to me this week in a letter from a distant relative, who however evidently believes it to be true. She declares to me that the old Bell at WITTHENSHAW, in Northenden parish, in this county, which had been for two centuries missing from its place in its bell cote, came miraculously back again within living memory; and that its booms are once more a familiar sound to the tenants of Mr. TATTON. Is there anything tangible in this, of course, modern tradition?

CAMERO-BRITON.

[1481] THE COACHMAN'S LEAP.

Sixty or seventy years ago, according to a tradition in my family, which I should suppose must have some foundation in fact, the driver of a stage coach, piloting his freight over one of the Bridges on the River DEW, suddenly threw up the reins, and, jumping over into the river, left the coach to pursue its journey in the best way it could. What ultimately became of either the coach or its driver, my information does not state; but I should like to ascertain, through THE SHEAF, if anything is known of this out of the way incident?

L. L.

Replies.

[1482] HOSPITALLEERS OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM.

[No. 860.—October 15, 1879.]

I have never seen any list of the Cheshire estates of this ancient and once important religious brotherhood; but there is no doubt the fraternity were well represented by property in this county, as they likewise were in most others.

In my collection of Cheshire deeds is one relating to lands at *Barw* (Barrow), which were then owned by the "Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem;" but as there are several Barrows scattered over England, and as there is nothing in my deed to identify it clearly with either of our Cheshire BARROWS, I refrain from noticing it any further here.

I have, however, another and much later Document in my possession, dated five weeks after the death of Oliver Cromwell, which points directly to property and privileges attaching to the manor of *Iweley*, which I take to mean BYLEY, otherwise Biveley, near Middlewich. This deed is so interesting in several of its details that I will here give it at length:—

"These may Certifie all whom it may Concerne, That John Aimson of Middlew'ch in the County of Chester, gent', is one of the Tenants or Farmo'rs of p'te of the lands and possessions belonging to the late dissolved Hospital, of St. John the Baptist at Jerusalem in Middlew'ch aforesaid, w'th in the said County of Chester, And Inhabitinge and resideinge vpon the same. And by vertue of an Antient Charter heretofore granted to the brethren of the said late dissolved Hospital, And by many Kinges of this Nation since Confirmed, And now Exemplified vnder the pr'sent great Seale of England, In the name of the Keepers of the Libertyes of England by Authority of Parliam't, Is and ought to be freed and discharged by vertue of the said Charter (Amongst other priueledges and freedomes), of and from the paym't of all Tolle of what kinde soever in all Marketts, faires, wayes, passages of Bridges, and other places whatsoever, As well by Sea as by land, throughout the com'on wealth of England. And of and from all Taxes, Impositions, and Assesem'ts for repaire of Bridges in any wyse whatsoever. And of and from the Execution and servinge of the office of Constable, or other office whatsoever, w'thin any Towneship or Towneships, or w'thin the pr'inct of any Manno'r, Leete, liberty, or Jurisdiction whatsoever, Saueinge only w'thin the Manno'r, Leete, libertie, Jurisdiction, and diuision, beinge of the lands and possessions of the said late dissolved Hospital to w'ch he doth belonge. As by the said Charter soe granted and Exemplified vnder the pr'sent great Seale of England as aforesaid, In the name of the Keepers of the Libertyes of England by Authority of Parliam't, bearinge date the Six and Twentieth day of September, 1651, And ready to be shewed as ocaasion shall require, It doth and may Appeare. In Testamony whereof JOHN ELY, gent', Steward of the seuerall diuisions w'thin the Manno'r of Iweley w'thin the County of Chester, p't of the possessions belonginge to the said Hospital, Hath herevnto put his hand and Seale, the Eighth day of October, one Thousand Six hundred fifty and Eight.

Endorsed on back

"John Aimson, gen',
Patent to free him from toule
1658. John of Jerusalem."

JOHN ELY, Steward there."

T. HUGHES.

[1488] THOMAS CRANE.

[No. 1462.—January 12.]

He is perhaps of the same Chester family as THOMAS CRANE, the miniature portrait painter, born at Chester in 1808. The family, according to RANDLE HOLME (ii., 269), bore the appropriate motto, *Qui pascit corvo non obliviscitur grues* :—

He who gives the crows their bread
Will, thoughtful, see the Cranes are fed.

According to the bibliographical Dictionaries, and the *Dictionary of Living Authors*, 1816, THOMAS CRANE, the minister, was of St. Olave's from 1772 to 1816. He wrote the following :—

- 1772. The Common Translation of the 109th Psalm Corrected, 4to.
- 1774. The English Translation of the 45th Psalm Corrected, 8vo.
- 1786. Sermon Preached before the Honourable Society of Freemasons, Chester, 4to.
- 1788. An Edition of the Works of Dr. WM. SMITH, of Chester. This work again appeared in 1791, thus entitled : The Poetic Works of the Rev. WM. SMITH, B.D., late Dean of CHESTER ; with an account of the life and writings of the Author. By THOMAS CRANE, Minister of the Parish Church of St. Olave, Chester, and Chaplain to the Right Hon. the Earl Verney,

Stretford.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

Some further particulars of THOMAS CRANE, supplementary to those here given by our good friend Mr. J. E. BAILEY, will be found at No. 1004 of THE SHEAF. An incident is there related, which was beyond doubt the starting point of the Chester parson's acquaintance with the Verneys, ending in his being appointed, as above stated, "Chaplain to the Right Hon. the Earl Verney."

I possess copies of most of the pamphlets enumerated in Mr. BAILEY's list. I must not however omit to state that the local cream of the one dated 1774 in his list is left strangely wanting. I give here an exact copy of the title :—

"Revolvit cor meum : The Common English Translation of the Fourty-Fifth Psalm, carefully corrected according to the true meaning of the Hebrew Original ; with a Paraphrase and Notes : whereunto is prefixed, written in the year MDCCLXXI, some account of the parish of BOOLESTON near CHESTER, an essay towards a new and compendious Method of Topography : By THOMAS CRANE, Second Grammar-Master of the KING'S SCHOOL in CHESTER. Printed for T. Crane, and sold by the booksellers in London. MDCCLXXIV." 8vo., pp. 22.

This little work was dedicated to Dr. WILLIAM SMITH, Dean of Chester, translator of *Longinus*, and Rector of Holy Trinity Church, Chester ; whose miscellaneous poetic trifles were collected by Mr. CRANE

and printed for him in 1788, and again in 1791, as told above by Mr. BAILEY.

I will seize an early opportunity to give a few further biographical notes of Mr. CRANE, who, I shall be in a position to prove, was *not* a native of Newport, Salop.

T. HUGHES.

FEBRUARY 2, 1881.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- Feb. 2.—Grand Banquet to Sir Watkin W. Wynn, bart., M.P., at Wrexham, Major J. J. Ffoulkes, of Erivist, presiding..... 1869
- „ 4.—Chester city granted a new Charter of Incorporation, by Charles II..... 1684
- „ 5.—St. John's, Chester, the Churchwardens granted a Faculty, by Chancellor Gastrell, to build a new South Gallery in their Church..... 1741
- „ 6.—Wilmslow Parsonage House granted, by faculty from Bishop William Markham, to be rebuilt..... 1772
- „ 7.—John Cottingham, Esq., barrister-at-law, of Little Neston, elected Recorder of Chester..... 1836

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1484] ROUNDHEAD TROUBLES AT WARRINGTON.

(Concluded from No. 1477).

The following Letters carry on the story of the Royal Army's approach through Shropshire and Cheshire towards Lancashire, and show the nervous state of alarm into which the Roundheads, Sir WILLIAM BREESTON himself not excepted, were thrown by the harassing news. BREESTON, in the face of the peril, writes to heal up his quarrel with Col. JOHN BOOTH, whose letter, printed last week, indicated a willingness for active service. Sir WILLIAM replies to his subordinate as follows :—

"To COL. J. BOOTH.

Sir,

It is true I sent a former and yesterday another I've, ymporting the neere advance of the King and Princes, whose then were, and for any thing I know yet are, at NEWPORT and on this side Newport [Salop].

I have sent divers I'ves to y'r Lancashire Deputy Lieuten'ts and Committees, according to the severall com'ands and Intimac'ons I have received from the

Com'ittee of Both Kingdome, from the Earle of Leven and the Lord Faifax; which I'es some of them I sent to MANCHESTER and some of them to ORMESKIRKE, which I doubt not are communicated to you before this time: Importing the appoyntm't made for the forces of LANCASHIRE and CHESHIRE and STAFFORDSHIRE, soe many as can bee spared out of theire Garrisons, to be Randevouzed upon BARLOW MOORE upon Thursday next, which is the day appoynted by the Lord Faifax to that purpose, whereof I doubt not but you have received Advertis'm't before this time.

Accordinge to which I purpose, if the Lord permitt, and if the enemy doe not Intervene, to bee there, and to bring such forces as can bee spared, and to receive such assistance as from yo'selfe and the rest of ye Gentlemen of the Country may be j'yned therewith, in pursuance of the com'ands they have already received.

Wherein noe man, notwithstanding any former differences that have bene betwixt any of us, shall more willingly comply, nor more cordially joyne, for the advancem't of this service, then

Your Brother-in-Lawe,

To serve you,

WILL. BREERTON.

May 20, 1645."

This letter proved anything but a harbinger of comfort and quiet to the Council at WARRINGTON, who at once replied to their General in the following not over confident terms:—

"TO SIR WILLIAM BREERTON.

S'r,

In ye absence of ye rest of ye Gent' wee opned yo'r l'es, and, upon p'usall thereof, have as far as in us lay taken course for ye securing of HALEFOARD and RONCHOENE; but for LIVERPOOLE, they have left us in a straing condio'on, having designed only Coll. BOOTH his Reg't to keepe LIVERPOOLE and WARRINGTON: the redd Reg't is com'anded to BARLY MOOR, soe is Coll. HOLLANDS. Ye rest of ye forces are intended to stay at [blank left] till wee heare from you of ye nearer approach of ye enemy; w'ch we desire you to signifie unto us in all speede, as ocaasion shall be offered.

S'r, what other passages hapeneth, wee desire you to certifie unto us; and assure yourselfe you shall find us ready and willing to observe any com'ands that may tend to ye advancem't of ye Publique service, whilst wee live, and shall always p'fesse ourselves to be,

S'r,

Yo'r humble Servants,

PETER EDGERTON,
G. BOOTH,
G. IRELAND

Warrington, 21 May, 1645."

Sir WILLIAM hastens to reassure the anxious Council, and promises that everything possible shall be done by him to meet the emergency; but that he looks to them to provide for HALE FORD and RUNCORN. The letter thus proceeds:—

"TO YE GENTLEMEN IN LANCASHIRE.

Gentlemen,

I am very glad to heare that you have taken soe good course to secure HALE FORD and RONCHOENE, w'ch I conceive must be by casting up some soone, that I believe may doe.

Ye enemy, I am assured, is at WHITCHURCH, and thereabouts, not above twenty-four hours march from HALE FOARD; and therefore [it] aught more carefully to be guarded, w'ch is probable to be their grand designe.

If LIVERPOOLE have ocaasion, I shall desire that some of my WYRHALL forces may assist them, and have given orders accordingly: if in anie thing else I may advantage yo'r service, I shall be allwayes ready to approve myselfe

Yo'r faithfull friend to

serve you,

WM. BREERTON."

The Battle of Naseby, on June 14, while inflicting a mortal blow on the Royalists, proportionately steeled the courage of BREERTON and the holders of WARRINGTON. Liverpool being soon after surrendered, the Cheshire commander now concentrated his attention on CHESTER, which he closely invested. The King himself, in the following September, came with an army to raise the Seige: but on BOWTON MOOR another defeat still further weakened his cause; and, in a short space, royalty itself was blotted out of English history altogether for a season.

EDITOR.

POTTS.

[1485]

CHESHIRE EVENTS.

"May 20th, 1801.—Several publicans in Chester paid the penalty of £4 10s. for selling wine in their tents on the Roodeye during the race-week without regular license for that purpose.

June 1st, 1801.—Shook of earthquake felt at Chester, Shrewsbury, and other places.

January 21st, 1802.—Terrific hurricane in Cheshire, Shropshire, &c. At Parkgate almost every house in the place was wrecked; the fishermen's boats were dashed to pieces. Five cows and horses were killed by the fall of a "shippon" in the neighbourhood.

March 16th and 17th, 1802.—A main of cocks of 18 main and 12 bye-battles was fought at Nantwich, between Sir Robert Leighton and Sir Thomas Mostyn, Barts., which was won by the former, one a head in the main; the byes were equal.

April 15th, 1802.—Three journeymen shoemakers committed to Chester Castle for three months, on the charge of having, with others, "combined together to advance their wages, contrary to Act of Parliament."

July 28th, 1802. — William Manley, Esq., barrister-at-law, is appointed Attorney-General of the Chester Circuit in the room of Mr. Lyecester, made a Welsh Judge."

The foregoing are taken from newspapers of the period.
Croeswyllan, Oswestry. A. B.

[1486] NANTWICH PRIVILEGES.

In King's *Vale Royal*, the 8vo. edition of 1779, vol. ii, p. 584, appears the following, not wholly without interest at the present time :—

"The freeholders and inhabitants of Nantwich enjoy one peculiar advantage, which is, an exemption from serving on juries out of the town, or mixt with strangers. Their right to which envied privilege being called in question in the reign of Edward the Third, was then proved to have been enjoyed by the inhabitants from time immemorial, and was thereupon confirmed. It was again attacked in Queen Elizabeth's reign, and again established; she ordered them an exemplification of the deeds and records relative to this contested privilege, and that Sir John Throckmorton, knight, should sign them. This was in the tenth year of her reign. Now the inhabitants, in order to strengthen their right, and to ascertain the authenticity of the deeds and records, removed them into the office of Exchequer in Chester, by writ of *certiorari*. They also obtained the signatures of all or most of the succeeding Chief Justices, down to the honourable John Morton. This was done in order finally to determine all disputes relative thereto; notwithstanding which, they were threatened with a fresh attack no longer since than the year 1762, which however was not carried into execution.

It is strange that people, pretending to all the common rights of liberty and of freemen, should be so prompt to invade the established customs and privileges of their neighbours. Few corporations in the kingdom can shew stronger titles to their respective privileges (not even the Universities themselves) than this: however, it served to raise so laudable and determined a spirit among the freeholders, as evinced the firmest resolution to defend their threatened privilege, and will always reflect the highest honour upon them; near sixty of the principal freeholders and inhabitants subscribing their names, as unanimously resolved to spare no expense in defending their common right."

Thus does our author describe a privilege which, whilst in NANTWICH a few months ago, I was told has lately been again tampered with, if not destroyed. I am unable however to state under what circumstances this has occurred. J. H.

[1487] THE RETURN OF THE CHESHIRE
MILITIA FROM IRELAND.

The following scrap of semi-military news is taken from an old family letter in my possession, bearing date Feb. 4, 1816 :—

"Major COTTON & his men were detained at the Pigeon House, Dublin, five days by contrary winds; but on Saturday evening had so fine a breeze as to bring them to Liverpool in 24 hours without once shifting the sails. The General ordered them to march from EASTHAM on the Monday, so that they did not enter the old City till near 9 o'clock, which was a cruel disappointment. However, they received a hearty welcome from the lower orders of the inhabitants, who put some bits of candle in the windows; & the streets were so crowded that it was difficult to move forward. Major COTTON's hands were violently attacked by men and women, all thanking him for bringing the small remains of the Cheshire heroes from the Wars. When the arms were given up in the Castle Yard, the men wished to carry their Major round the City, through the principal streets; but he compromised the matter by being borne round the Castle Yard, the band playing 'See the Conquering Hero Comes!'"

I cannot remember to have seen, in the chronological events printed in the local guide-books, any notice of this return of "The Cheshire" to their homes.

Newton.

H.

Queries.

[1488] HOLLAND FAMILY BOOK-PLATE.

I possess a very fine copy of a book-plate, the arms of which may thus be described :—"Az. semée (eight) of fleurs-de-lis, a lion rampant, guardant ar." Crest, "out of a ducal coronet or, a demi-lion rampant guardant, holding in his dexter paw a fleur-de-lis." These are the arms confirmed by Dugdale, 27th July, 1664, to WILLIAM HOLLAND, of the family of Holland of Heaton, co. Lanc. The coat of the Hollands of Cheshire was very similar. The accessories of the plate, which measures 4in. by 4½in., are somewhat pretentious. In a curtained apartment Minerva is seated; a winged boy holds the shield of arms before her; two other figures, amidst books and a beehive, are seated in the foreground reading in studious attitudes; while a third holds the crest in front of a window on the left. The plate is unsigned, and I should like to know who engraved it, for it is a work of some merit.

Contemporary with the plate, or thereabouts, is an autograph "John Holland. No. 39."

The book containing the plate is entitled *The Laws of Honour*, 8vo, London, 1714. It passed for a sum of 5s. into a private library in Yorkshire, through a Yorkshire bookseller named Wm. J., who obtained it from Geo. H. Crowther, bookseller, of CHESTER. The Yorkshire gentleman's library being sold, the book came to Manchester, where I bought it. I am curious to ascertain to what JOHN HOLLAND this book formerly belonged.

Stretford, Manchester.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

[1489] EPIGRAMS WRITTEN AT CHESTER BY
DEAN SWIFT.

Among the Miscellaneous Poems of Dean SWIFT, I find three Epigrams written on Windows at CHESTER. Do these inscriptions or any of them still exist, and if so where? Or, in the event of their having disappeared, where were they originally written? As these Epigrams have a special local interest it may not be out of place to reproduce them in THE SHEAF, especially in connection with the foregoing questions. They are as follows:—

1. "The church and clergy here, no doubt,
Are very near akin;
Both weather-beaten are without,
And empty both within."
2. "My landlord is civil,
But dear as the d——l:
Your pockets grow empty
With nothing to tempt ye:
The wine is so sour,
'Twill give you the scour:
The beer and the ale
Are mingled with stale;
The real is such carrion,
A dog would be weary on.
All this I have felt,
For I live on a smelt."
3. "The walls of this town
Are full of renown,
And strangers delight to walk round 'em;
But as for the dwellers,
Both buyers and sellers,
For me, you may hang 'em or drown 'em."

I think I have heard or read that the Dean made the Yacht Inn, in Watergate-street, his headquarters during his visits to CHESTER. I should like to know this for certain.

Mow Cop.

G. H.

[1490] JOHN FEBRIAR.

In the number of "*Notes and Queries*" for January 22, a physician of the above name is recorded as being the author of "*Illustrations of Sterne*." It is further stated that he was born at CHESTER in 1764. Is anything else known locally of this literary disciple of the art of medicine? If he published any other works, a list of them would, I should fancy, be of interest to our Cestrian book-worms.

Cambridge.

T. CANN HUGHES.

Replies.

[1491] HIGGLEDY PIGGLEDY, MALPAS SHOT.

[No. 1473.—Jany. 19.]

As one of the two Rectors who, in the words of your correspondent Mr. WILKINS, have existed ever since

the celebrated Royal Booze to which he refers; I suppose I ought to answer his letter, unless my respected colleague has already done so.

Mr. WILKINS wants to know the ins and outs of the story. The "ins," according to the best MALPAS tradition, are as follow:—King JAMES I. was on a Royal Progress such as he was accustomed to make over various parts of his dominions. As he approached MALPAS (which, be it observed, is on the old high road between London and Chester), he sent forward to the Rector, as the principal person of the place, to require him to provide for his suitable entertainment. The Rector, whether, unlike his kind, disloyal, or, like them, parsimonious, refused. The Curate saw his opportunity, and ordering the best viands the old "*Lion*" could produce, invited his Majesty to refreshment. So much for the "ins." The rest of the story is less clear, and varies with different traditions. It appears, however, that at the end of the banquet there was some discussion as to settling the account. His Majesty perhaps desired to be generous; the Curate insisted on the rights of hospitality. Eventually, however, the ancient custom of MALPAS prevailed, even if it were against the King's wishes. Half-and-half, or "Higgledy Piggledy," was the time-honoured rule of the "*Lion*." All who came should pay equal shares or "stand the shot" alike. Accordingly, Curate and King divided the costs of the festival: and the MALPAS proverb received the sanction of royal authority.

But this was not to be the only thing divided. The monarch, who never said a foolish thing, had a good occasion for a practical joke. If "Higgledy Piggledy" were the rule of the "*Lion*," it might also be the rule of the Glebe and the Tithes. "Malpas Shot" was fixed upon the unfortunate Rector: and the Curate received henceforth the mediety of the Benefice.

I never heard of any similar story elsewhere. The chair in which the King is said to have sat is preserved at the "*Lion*."

It were a pity to dissolve so beautiful a myth, which I am convinced has some foundation. The chair; the proverb; and my fellow Rector, are a large body of evidence taken together. I will therefore only observe in conclusion that at CHOLMONDLEY CASTLE exists a MS., showing the church to have been collegiate in the reign of King John.

Higher Rectory, Malpas.

W. T. KENYON.

Mr. HOWEL W. LLOYD, M.A., answering a query about this old border phrase in *Bye-gones*, Feb. 17, 1875, said:—

"Happening to pass through Malpas when a boy, on the box of a lumbering Chester coach, the following account, as nearly as I remember, of the origin of this saying was given by the coachman himself, somewhat of an original of the Mr. Waller, senior, type, whom I had amused myself by 'drawing out' by the way:—Before his invasion of England, William

III. travelled in England *incognito*, with a view to certify himself of the state of the national feeling towards himself and his colleagues, and coming to Malpas, betook himself to the inn for his dinner, a repast which he happened to share with the Rector and Curate of the parish. The meal over, the Curate proposed to the Rector to divide the payment of the 'shot'—that of the stranger included—between them. To this the rector, who enjoyed in the neighbourhood the reputation of being a miser, strenuously objected, exclaiming 'Certainly not,—higgledy, piggedly, all pay alike.' 'By all means,' chimed in the future sovereign, 'higgledy, piggedly, all pay alike;' and so it was arranged. But when William was seated upon the throne, the Rector of Malpas, among others, made a journey to London to worship the rising sun. The King no sooner saw him than he reminded him of the incident; and compelled him to resign a moiety of the parish to his Curate, also with the title of Rector, on the principle embodied in his own apothegm, 'Higgledy, Piggedly, All Pay Alike.' And from that day forwards there have been two Rectors of Malpas."

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

Other correspondents will probably reply to this Query from its Cheshire stand-point. I, as a casual reader from Berkshire, may be permitted to state that the story has its counterpart in this county; and, singularly enough, England's Solomon is the monarch concerned in each of the two cases.

The "Vicar of Bray" is an historic personage made familiar to us by the words of the old song; showing how, in the changes of creed at and after the Reformation, he accommodated himself to the times, and determined at all hazards, whether as Protestant or Papist, to at least remain Vicar of Bray. It would be of one of his immediate successors that the following story is told in Murray's *Handbook to Berkshire*, now before me.

Under the description of MAIDENHEAD, on the Thames, I read at p. 85, as follows:—

"James I., when hunting one day, rode on before his hounds to search for luncheon, and came to the inn at Maidenhead. But the landlord lamented that he had nothing left in the house, for the Vicar of Bray and his curate were upstairs, and had ordered all that there was, but perhaps they would allow him to join them. King James went upstairs and asked permission, which was glumly given by the Vicar, but cordially by the Curate. All dinner-time the King told so many stories that he made them roar with laughter. At last came the bill, when the King searching his empty pockets, protested that he had left his purse behind him, and could not pay. Upon this the Vicar angrily protested that he would not pay for him, but the Curate expressed his pleasure in being able to make some return for the amusement he had given them. The bill paid, they all went out upon the balcony; when the huntsmen, riding into the town and seeing the King, went down upon one knee in the street, as was then the custom. The Vicar, overwhelmed with confusion, flung him-

self at the King's feet and implored forgiveness; to which the King replied, 'I shall not turn you out of your living, and you shall always remain Vicar of Bray; but I shall make the Curate a Canon of Windsor, whence he will be able to look down both upon you and your vicarage.'"

I think it must be admitted, even by me a Berkshire man, that this pretty story is at most a colourable paraphrase of "Higgledy, Piggedly, Malpas Shot!"

Windsor.

C. ANDER.

FEBRUARY 9, 1881.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- | | |
|---|------|
| Feb. 10.—Cheshire required, under the "Training Act," to find 5164 men,—the Returns showed 21,185 men in the county liable to serve..... | 1807 |
| " 11.—The Town Council of Chester agreed to lease the strip of land under the City Walls, on the Roodeye, for the erection of the Dee Stands..... | 1839 |
| " 12.—William Cleaver, D.D., installed Bishop of Chester in Chester Cathedral | 1788 |
| " 13.—Eight hundred soldiers shipped at the City of Chester for service in Ireland. | 1599 |
| " 14.—Adlington House, Cheshire, taken after a fortnight's siege | 1644 |
- J. H.

Original Documents.

[1492] JOHN DOD, JUNIOR, OF SHOCKLACH.

[Nos. 401, 431, 530, 553, 579.—Vol. I. *passim*.]

Some controversy having arisen, in Vol. I. of THE SHEAF, as to the identity of the two JOHN DODS, uncles and nephew, of SHOCKLACH, near MALPAS, I think it will be well to place upon record the last will and testament of JOHN DOD the younger, brother of THOMAS, Dean of Ripon, Archdeacon of Richmond, and Rector of Malpas and Astbury.

The testator enters into a rather elaborate statement as to his religious belief,—a common practice in the 16th and 17th centuries, when a man's deathbed declaration of creed was often in direct variance with his outward profession during life. The document runs as follows:—

"In Nomine Patris, et filij, et Spiritus Sancti,
Amen.

I, JOHN DOD, fellowe of Jesus Colledge in Cambridge, Doe make this my last Will and Testament, wherein I doe first Commend my Soule into the Hands of the blessed and glorious Trinity: Trinitie

in Vnitie, and Vnitye in Trinity, 3 Parsons and one vnspokeable, vnexp'ssible, infinite, and ever lyvinge God : And I doe rest in full Assurance, that throughe the love of God the ffather, whose soe loved the worlde that hee gave his onely begotten Sonne to the shamefull Death of the Crosse for our sinnes ; and through the bitter Death and passion of Jesus Christ my Saviour and redeemer, whose hath promised, that whosoever beleueneth in him shall haue everlastinge life ; and through the assistance of the holye ghost the Sanctifyer, I shalbe p'taker at the last Daye of a Joyfull resurreccion & everlasting Salvation. Amen. Amen. Amen.

It'm, I doe Constitute and ordaine my Deare and lovinge Brother THOMAS DOD, the onely Executo'r of this my last will and Testament.

It'm, I doe giue and Assigne vnto my said brother all my right, Tytle, and Terme of yeares w'ch I haue in that Tenement in SHOCKLACH, together with the ground lease of the Demise of George Holford, Esquier ; w'ch Tenement is knowne by the name of Moyles Tenement, and is nowe in the occupac'on of Randle Moyle the elder, by my demyse, as alsoe together with the Assignement, whereby I stand seized of the same.

And I doe further giue and graunt vnto my brother THOMAS DOD full power to sell the said Tenement att the best rate, and the Sale to confirme and make good, as fully as I ought or could doe : butt my will ys, that the Sale bee made to these vses followinge ; first, that my debts bee payed wheresoever Duly Demanded, w'ch I desyer my deere brother and executor, for the passion of god, to haue a Care of.

Item, for the remaynder of my estate, I doe leave yt wholly to my lousinge mother, from whome I receaved the same for the greatest p'te.

For Legacyes to my friends, & my charity to the poore, the Lord knowes my heart to the one & my Charite to the other ; but for that I knowe not how my p'plexed estate stands, I haue thought fitt to passe by the first rather then to over reach, but for the last (that is my Charite to the poore) my Desyer is, & I doe hereby pray my executor, that if there shalbe any fayre sume remayninge that hee will, with the consent of my mother, remember the poore in SHOCKLACH and MALPASSE in such proportion as shall seeme goode vnto them both, And w'thall Joyne my Cosen JOHN DOD's Legacyes with the same.

Item, I doe giue my deare brother and executor for his paynes one, the best, of my garments, or one the best of my bookes. This is all I comend to my Executo'r and deare brother. And I beseech him, as hee loved mee in his [sic] lief tyme, soe, Carefully to looke to the contents heereof after my Death.

In Confirmac'on of the premisses, I haue sett to my hand & Seale the 7th of Aprill, 1632.

JOHN DOD,
Ex'd p'me.

Wittnes' hereof
Thomas Cannon,
Edmund Probye,
William Conwayne."

Proved July 13, 1632, for all property within the Diocese, and Execution granted of the Will "ve'li viro Tho : Dod, f're Del' ac soli exec'."

JOHN DOD, the Decalogist, died in 1645 : the JOHN DOD, whose Will we have now before us, died certainly between April 7 and July 13, 1632 ; and his brother THOMAS DOD, Rector of Malpas, and afterwards Dean of Ripon, proved his Will at the Bishop's Registry in Chester. An office copy only remains at Chester ; for as he seems to have died at Cambridge, and left property there, the original Will was, after proof, impounded by the Vice Chancellor of Cambridge University, where it in all probability still remains.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1493]

THOMAS PENNANT.

In an article headed "Curious Antipathies" in *Chambers' Journal* for January 22, 1881, is the following :—

"PENNANT, the eminent traveller, had a great aversion to wigs, which was also transferred to their wearers for the time. Once, in the presence of the Mayor of CHESTER, who wore a powdered wig, he got very excited and nervous, and angrily made some strong remarks about the Mayor to a companion. At last, losing all control over his feelings, he rushed at the Mayor, pulled off his wig, and ran away with it out of the house, waving it aloft as he went. The Mayor followed, to the amusement of the populace ; and this curious race was afterwards known as the "Mayor and Mr. Pennant's Tour through Chester."

If this anecdote be true, it would only be another example of a strong mind having a very weak spot ; and, as a red rag to a bull, so a wig to the illustrious topographer and naturalist. It would be interesting to know under what circumstances the anecdote first appeared, and whether there be good grounds for believing in its correctness. If the occurrence did take place, it would form a humorous addition to any future Anecdotal History of CHESTER.

As PENNANT was 72 years of age at the time of his death in 1798, he would have observed during the latter half of his life a gradual disuse of the practice of wearing wigs. Probably he did not wear one at any time, and this is borne out by the portraits of him which have fallen under my notice. In 1776, when he was 50 years old, Gainsborough painted his portrait ; an excellent engraving of which, by W. Ridley, is prefixed to Pennant's Autobiographical Memoirs of his "Literary Life." Another engraving by Stanier from the same original is far inferior. In it he is represented with a three-quarter face, and at the back of the neck is a tuft,

which at first sight looks like the upper bow of a Famillie wig, but is apparently intended to represent the long back hair only. Another and somewhat younger looking portrait of him by Chapman, showing a side face, displays an unmistakeably long plaited queue. The natural hair in each instance is evidently intended to be shown, but powdered, and the side rolls stiffened with pomatum to keep them in shape.

Perhaps some reader of *THE SHEAF* can throw further light upon this anecdote.

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood, Surrey.

Queries.

[1494] DEAN HODGSON, OF CHESTER.

This dignitary succeeded to the Deanery of CHESTER on the death of Hugh Cholmondeley, in November, 1815. Our local records say little of his connection with the city; so I think it worth while to quote the following extract from an old letter in my possession:—

“ March 20th, 1816.

The new DEAN of CHESTER [ROBERT HODGSON, D.D.] is greatly approved,—he gave us two excellent Sermons in the Cathedral, and alarmed the Dissenters. He means to try the effect of Lectures on a Sunday Evening, in which his late Uncle, the Bishop of London, succeeded so greatly in St. James's Church, London.”

Did the new Dean carry out his intention to found a Sunday Evening Lecture, and, if so, when, and in what Church? I believe he resigned the Deanery in 1820,—when and where did he die?

Newton.

H.

[1495] BOW CHURCH BELLS.

It was an old saying in our county, late in the 17th century, that “Cheshire made Bow Bells to ring.” Had this saying any connection with the Curfew Bell, rung every night for many centuries, and I suppose still, under the name of *Bobell*, in CHESTER CATHEDRAL,—or did it refer to any local association with the historic church of Bow, near London.

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[1496] THE GREAT FROST, JANUARY, 1881.

All the old people I have consulted on the late tremendous FROST declare that there has never been anything like it in their day. But is this strictly so,—and if not, in which year of the present century was there any Frost to compare with the one from which we have only just been emancipated?

CAMBRO-BRITON.

Replies.

[1497] HOSPITALIERS OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM.

[Nos. 860, 1482.—Oct. 15, 1879, Jan. 26, 1881.]

I send the names of a few places in Cheshire where this Order formerly held property.

Mr. HUGHES mentions Barw (Barrow), but is not sure that it is our Cheshire Barrow. I will deal with this directly. He also mentions that, in another document of his, the manor of IVELEY is referred to, but doubts whether it does not mean Byley, otherwise Biveley, near Middlewich.

Allow me to say that no doubt the IVELEY in his document is quite correct, and that it refers to Iveley, in Derbyshire, where there was a Preceptory of the above-named Order. The Duke of Leeds was once lessee, under the Crown, of the property belonging to the ancient Preceptory of Iveley.

Now for Barrow (Great), in Eddisbury Hundred. In the reign of Henry II., Robert de Baohapuz (Baoh Pool) gave the Church of Barrow to the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem.

Astle Hall, Chelford, at a very early period was held from the Order of St. John of Jerusalem by Adam de Asthulle.

Tatton also at an early date was held partly under the barony of Halton, and partly under the priory of St. John of Jerusalem.

Fulshaw, in Macclesfield Hundred, passed from the Fulshaws to the Fittons, by whom it was given to the Prior and Convent of St. John of Jerusalem.

W'arburton, in Bucklow Hundred, at the Domesday Survey was held in moieties by the Baron of Halton and Robert Tesson. In the reign of Richard I., Adam de Dutton became possessed of both moieties, one in right of his wife, the other by grant from John Lacy, Constable of Chester in the 13th century; and it appeared, from a deed in Sir Peter Leycester's *History*, that it was given on condition of his granting it to the Prior and Convent of St. John of Jerusalem.

WILLIAM H. BRADFORD.

Great Saughall.

[1498] “POOR OLD B.”

[No. 1252, 1819.—Aug. 4, Sept. 22, 1880.]

In addition to Mr. HUGHES' account of this gentleman in No. 1819, the following facts and matters respecting the family of BOILEAU, of whom “Poor old B.”—SOLOMON BOILEAU,—at the time of his death was the Head, may be of interest to “LUCY D. T.”, a lady to whom the contributors to, and readers of, *THE SHEAF* must be much indebted for her enquiry and research.

As there existed a long intimacy between the BOILEAU family and mine, I am enabled to make some additions to Mr. HUGHES' account,—principally from my own knowledge of the family, and from original documents in my possession.

SOLOMON BOILEAU—"Poor old B."—was lineally descended from Etienne Boileau, of an ancient family in Languedoc, near Nismes, who was Governor and first Grand Provost of Paris in 1255.

At the time of the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, his descendant and the representative of his Estate was Jaques Boileau, Lord of Castelnau and St. Croix, a peer of France and Councillor:—being a Protestant, he was arrested, and died under that arrest, leaving a very numerous family—it is said 22 children. His eldest son was Charles Boileau, who fled from France—first into Belgium, then to England, where he joined the British army, and obtained the rank of Captain, and commanded a corps of French Gentlemen at Blenheim, under the Duke of Marlborough; subsequently he went to reside at Southampton, where he made his will (which he afterwards revoked). In the year 1717 he added a codicil to this will, and which codicil he confirmed by a will dated the 6th day of March, 1722-23. This Will and codicil are both in French, Probate of which was granted forth of the Prerogative Court at Dublin on the 22nd of May, 1733. The Grant of Probate of will and codicil, and original copies, are now in my possession. In the Codicil which precedes the Will, he states that he has settled with his dear brother, "Maurice Boileau, Seigneur de Castelnau et St. Croix, Resident en la Ville de Nismes en Languedoc," to whom he states he had made three several acquittances, which by the Codicil he confirms, of all rights of inheritance which he had or might have "*par droit d'aïnesse, retour, et residence en France*" on the Estate, Inheritance and Feoffments of the deceased Nobles, Nicholas and Jaques Boileau, Seigneurs de Castelnau, their grandfather and father, and of the deceased Noble, Charles Boileau de Castelnau, Sieur de Vinarque, their uncle. By his will he leaves legacies of £5 sterling each to the French Conformist Church in Dublin and to the Children's Society at Nismes; and after specific bequest of furniture, jewelry, and apparel to his wife, "Marie Magdelaine De-seury de Castelnau," he gives his property, the income to be paid to his wife on condition that she is to maintain and keep Charles-Daniel, Simeon, Pierre-Jean, Marguerite, and Georguete-Magdelaine, and the child of which his wife was then *enceinte*, until the periods in the will mentioned; eventually his property to go to his children as therein appointed.

His wife, Marie Magdelaine De-seury, was the daughter of a refugee Huguenot, also of an ancient noble family in France; their eldest son, Charles Daniel, died young, leaving the second son, Simeon Boileau, the heir and representative of the family. Charles Boileau, his father, on leaving Southampton

came to reside in Dublin, where for several years he carried on in Bride-street the business of a wine merchant. His son, Simeon, succeeded him, not as a wine merchant, but as a wholesale druggist and chemist; in which he rose to eminence and accumulated a very considerable fortune, being highly esteemed by his fellow citizens, and particularly by the descendants of the Huguenots, of whom there were very many settled in Dublin. Simeon married Magdalen La Cour Desbrisay, also of Huguenot descent, who was, I believe, aunt to old Col. Desbrisay, who resided for many years in a large house on the flags Watergate-street, near the Watergate, Chester. Simeon's eldest son was SOLOMON BOILEAU, "Poor old B." born in Dublin, 1715, and who married first in 1766, Dorothea Gladwell, by whom he had a very large family; for many years he occupied the situation of cashier in one of the Banks in this city, and was well known and universally respected. He was heir to the Lordship of Castelnau, had his grandfather not renounced the same in favour of Maurice Boileau, who however must have conformed in order to hold it.

SOLOMON BOILEAU married in 1792 his second wife, Lucy Slater, a daughter of a merchant in Liverpool, whose principal business was connected with the drug and chemical trades—and with whom the Boileau family had business relations for many years—and between the members of whose families there existed close intimacy. Two sisters, unmarried, of Mrs. Lucy Boileau, resided for many years in Paradise Row, on the margin of the Roodey at Chester, and the last is not so very long dead.

Solomon Boileau's eldest son was Simeon Peter Boileau, who was a merchant in Dublin, and married Hannah, daughter of Annesley De Binzy, Esq., of the county Wicklow. His eldest son was Francis Barton Boileau, who was a Major General in the Bengal Artillery, heir and head of the family, and by descent Lord of Castelnau.

The second son of Simeon Peter Boileau was John Peter Boileau, who married Henrietta, eldest daughter of the Rev. Geo. Pollen, of Little Brookham, Surrey.

The eldest surviving son of this marriage was John Peter Boileau, F.R.S., born 2nd September, 1794. He married 14th November, 1825, Lady Catherine Sarah Elliott, third daughter of Gilbert 1st Earl of Minto, and was created a Baronet in 1838, and died 9th March, 1869.

His eldest son was John Elliot Boileau, born 1827, and d. s. p. 1861. His second son is Francis George Manningham Boileau, who married Lucy Harriet, eldest daughter of Sir George Nugent, Bart., and succeeded his father in the baronetcy on the 9th March, 1869, being the 2nd baronet, and great grandson of "Poor old B." The present baronet's residences are Tacolnestone Hall and Ketteringham Park, county Norfolk.

The descendants of Chas. Boileau, the "Huguenot," through male and female lines, are numerous—beyond the limits of any communication that could obtain a corner in *THE SHEAF*: amongst them many occupying high positions in the army, navy, East Indies, and colonies, exemplifying the statement "that no sacrifice for religious principles shall lose its reward." The present representative of the Dublin branch of the family is John George Boileau, a valued friend of mine, carrying on the business of a merchant in the same premises in Bride-street, Dublin, in which Charles Boileau commenced as a Huguenot wine merchant; and this gentleman, John George Boileau, is a great grandson of "Poor old B."

Dublin, Jan., 1881.

W. MONK GIBBON.

[1499] LOCAL FOLK LORE.

THE CHESHIRE WIZARD.

[No. 1479.—Jan. 26, 1881.]

DICK SPOT may have lived at Whitechuroh, in common with many other places, for he was much given to moving about; but Oswestry was his chief dwelling-place, and at Oswestry he was buried. He died on the 4th of March, 1793, at the age of 83. A pamphlet Life of him was published with the following title:—

"The Life and Mysterious Transactions of Richard Morris, Esq., better known by the name of Dick Spot the Conjuror; particularly in Derbyshire and Shropshire; written by an Old Acquaintance who was a critical observer of all his actions for neare fifty years, &c. London, 1798."

Morris was stated to have been born at Bakewell, in Derbyshire, in 1710. He obtained the name of "Dick Spot" in consequence of his having a black spot on his face. He was a handy mechanic, and the Life states that there was a clock, of his making and invention, at the White Horse, Frankwell, Shrewsbury.

Mr. Hulbert mentions DICK SPOT in his *History of Shropshire*; and Mr. Randall of Madeley, in a *Salopian Illustrated Journal* he published (September, 1876), narrates an amusing instance of a rustic going to visit the "Wise Mon of Hodgistry" from the Wenlock district. There have been several references to him in *Bye-gones*. There are two grandsons (cousins) of Morris's living at the present time in Oswestry; one (who is better known as "Spot" than his proper name), a jockey, and (when sober) clever steeplechase rider.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. B.

[1500] WYTHENSHAW BELL.

[No. 1480.—January 26.]

Under your "*CHESHIRE SHEAF*" I notice a Query about the "*WYTHENSHAW BELL*." It was, I believe, the Chapel Bell, and was taken away at the time of the surrender of *WYTHENSHAW* after a long siege by the

Parliament Forces in 1643. Colonel *DUKINFIELD*, who was in command of the besieging party, carried the Bell off to *DUKINFIELD HALL*, from whence it was restored to my father, in 1807, by *FRANCIS DUKINFIELD ASTLEY*, of Dukinfield, High Sheriff of the county. Having been cracked *in transitu*, I have had it re-cast, and it now performs its duty as the House Bell well and sonorously.

THOMAS WILLIAM TATTON.

Wythenshawe, Northenden.

FEBRUARY 16, 1880.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- Feb. 17.—Robert Grosvenor, first Marquis of Westminster, grandfather of the present Duke, died, aged 77 1845
- " 18.—Roger Comberbach, B.L., appointed by Chancellor Peploe of Chester to be his Deputy 1748
- " 19.—Lord Deputy Mountjoy, who had been banqueted in the Pentice by the Mayor and Corporation two days previously, left Chester for Ireland... 1599
- " 22.—Beeston Castle seized and garrisoned for the Parliament 1642
- J. H.

Original Documents.

[1501] SIR PETER LEYCESTER, BARONET.

This celebrated Cheshire antiquary, author of *The Antiquities of Bucklow Hundred*, was in his younger days an ardent royalist, and served for a time in the army of King Charles. He resided at *CHESTER* during a portion of the troublous period between 1643 and 1660, employing his leisure in poring over the historic documents then stored up at Chester Castle, and to which his collections shew he was allowed liberal access. But it is to the military part of his career that the Documents I print to-day alone refer.

In the *ROYALISTS' COMPOSITION PAPERS*, second series, vol. xxii, fo. 697, preserved at the Public Record Office, London, I recently met with the two papers following; the first being *SIR PETER* (then simply *MR. LEYCESTER*'s) Petition to the ruling powers, in reference to the crime of Loyalty with which he stood charged. Here is the burden of his prayer:—

"To the hon'ble Committee at Goldsmith's Hall for Compositions, &c.

The humble Petition of Peter Leicester, Gent',

Sheweth,

That your Petitioner havinge bene a Com'issioner of Array for the County of CHESTER, and leavinge his owne habitation, did reside in his Ma'ties Garri- sons held against the Parliam't since the begin- nings of the vnhappy Warre.

That your Petitioners Estate is sequestrated for that his Delinquency; &

That he was at OXFORD when the same was sur- rendered, and is comprised within the Articles then agreed vppon, &c.

HEN therefore maketh it his humble Suit to this hon'ble Committee, That his name may bee entered as Compounder in reference to the sayd Articles: and that a letter be directed to the severall Com'it- tees for Sequestrations in the sayd County of Chester, to certify the value of his Estate, to the end hee may proceede to perfect his Composition accordinge to the same Articles, the favourable benefit whereof he humbly craveth.

And to that purpose yo'r Petitioner further prayeth yo'r Order to the sayd Sequestratours of CHESHIRE, for the stay of your sayd Petitioners Rents & other profits of his estate in the Tenants hands untill hee, your Petitioner, hath perfected his Composition &c., accordinge to the sayd Articles.

And your Petitioner shall ever pray, &c.

P. LEICESTER.

Rec'd 12 August, 1646.

Presented with it a pass from

S'r Tho: Fairfax, of the Date

of 24th of June, 1646.

21 Nov: 1646. Refer'd to ye Sub Com'ttee,

JO: LEECH."

Accompanying this Petition is the following partly printed Pass or Safe Conduct granted to the future Antiquary:—

"Sir Thomas Fairfax, Knight, General of the Forces raised by the Parliament,

SUFFER the Bearer hereof, PETER LEICESTER of Tabley, in the county of CHESTER, Esquire, who was in the City and Garrison of OXFORD at the Surrender thereof, and is to have the full benefit of the Articles agreed unto upon the Surrender, quietly and without let or interruption, to passe your Guards with his Servants, Horses, Armes, Goods, and all other necessaries, and to repaire unto LONDON or elsewhere upon his necessary occasions. And in all Places where he shall reside, or whereto he shall remove, to be protected from any Violence to his Person, Goods, or Estate, according to the said Articles, and to have full Liberty at any time within Six Months, to goe to any convenient Port, and to Transport himself with his Servants, Goods, and Necessaries, beyond the Seas. And in all other things to enjoy the Benefit of the said Articles.

Hereunto due Obedience is to be given, by all Persons whom it may concerne, as they will answer the contrary. Given under my Hand and Seale, the 24th Day of June, 1646.

T. FAIRFAX.

To all Officers and Souldiers vnder my Command, and to all others whom it may Concerne."

There is an endorsement on the back of this Docu- ment in Sir PETER LEYCESTER's own familiar hand,

"My Oxford Passe."

Whether there be remaining in the Public Record Office, or elsewhere, any further Documents referring to PETER LEYCESTER's Delinquency, I am at present unaware.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1502] THE IMAGE AT DARVELL-GADARN.

Among the "Specimens of the Early English Language" given by Mr. Halliwell-Phillips at the end of his *Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words*, is the following curious Letter, written by Dr. ELLIS PRICE, Commissary of the Diocese of ST. ASAPH, in connection with the raid then being made on the Churches and other Religious Houses of North Wales. I suppose it would have been addressed to THOMAS CROMWELL, but the endorsement is not given:—

"Ryghte honorable and my syngular goode lorde and mayster, all circumstauncys and thankes sett aside, pleasithe yt youre good lordeshipe to be advertisid, that where I was constitute and made by youre honorable desire and commaundmente com- missarie generall of the dyocese of Saynte Assaph, I haue done my dyligens and dutie for the expulsiinge and takynge awaye of certen abusions, supersticions, and ipoorieses, usid within the saide diocese of Saynte Assaph, aordynge to the kynges honorable aotes and injunctions therein made.

That notwithstandinge, ther ys an image of Darvell-gadarn within the said diocese, in whome the people haue so greate confidence, hope, and truste, that they cumme daylye a pillgramage unto hym, somme withe kyne, other with oxen or horsis, and the reste withe money; insomuche that there was fyve or syxe hundrethe pillgrames, to a mans estimacion, that offered to the saide image the fiftte dale of this presente monethe of Aprill. The innocente people hathe ben sore aluryd and entisid to worshippe the saide image, insomuche that there is a commyn sayinge as yet amongst them, that whosoever will offer anie thinge to the said image of Davell-gadarn, he hathe power to fatche hym or them that so offers oute of helle when they be dampned. Therefore, for the reformation and amendmente of the premisses I wolde gladlie knowe by this berer your honorable pleasure and will, as knowithe God, who ever preserve your lordshipe longe in welthe and honor.

Written in Northe Wales, the vj daye of this
presente Aprill.

Yours bed[e]man and daylye orator by dutie,
ELIS PRICE."

There is no date to this very curious Letter, but it
was certainly written prior to 1540, and so towards the
close of Henry VIII's reign.

CAMBRO-BRITON.

[1503] FIRE AT THE DEE MILLS, CHESTER.

Your correspondent "J. H." in the "Weekly Diary
of Local Events," in the No. for January 19th, places
the occurrence of the Fire at the Dee Mills as the 22nd
of January, which requires revision.

These Mills have been burnt down three times, in
late times, viz.:—

1st. About twelve o'clock on Saturday night, Sep-
tember 26th, 1789.

2nd. A little before twelve o'clock on Saturday night,
March 6th, 1819. One life lost. It was on the same
evening that the news came to Chester of the result of
the petition against the return to Parliament of Lord
Belgrave and General Grosvenor.

3rd. About two o'clock a.m. on Wednesday morning,
January 6th, 1847. The Infirmary annual Ball was
being held at the time at the Albion Hotel, in Lower
Bridge-street.

Ledsham.

R. M.

Queries.

[1504] REV. J. REECE, OF CONGLETON.

I have a copy of a little work, unfortunately without
a title-page, apparently entitled: "*Views of two
Kingdoms.*" The address to the reader is signed "J.
REECE," and dated "*Congleton, November, 1792.*" I
should be glad to know where this book was printed,
and the exact and full title. From *Historical Sketches
of Nonconformity in Cheshire* (p. 160), I learn that
Rev. J. REECE was Minister of the Independent Chapel
at CONGLETON from 1790 to 1797. There is a Memoir
of Mr. Reece in the *Evangelical Magazine*, vol. x., p.
41,—but that I have not seen.

Gatley.

P. M. H.

[1505] CHESHIRE CHURCH BUILDING CLERICS.

Has it ever struck other students, as it often has me, how
far our predecessors exceeded ourselves in the stability
and good taste of their buildings, ecclesiastical and civil,
though the incomes of their founders (even allowing for
the change in the value of money) bore no comparison
with those of the present day?

Look at the splendid old abbeys and churches scat-
tered over the land (our own old CHESHIRE being no

exception to the rule); see how—not only in the large
towns, but even in remote hamlets seldom, at any
period of history, trodden by the foot of strangers—the
landscape is dotted with fine old Churches, dedicated by
unknown, but loving, hands centuries and centurie-
ago, to the service of Almighty God, some of them indee-
d likely for almost as much longer, with proper attention
and care, to dignify and adorn the sites on which they
stand!

Then there are the Rectory Houses, too, some of
them almost coeval with the Churches themselves, where
the modern rector's passion for pretentious brick and
mortar has not improved them right off the glebe-land:
these, for picturesqueness of outline and design, and
solidity of construction, put very many of our modern
gimoracks to the blush! Surely, surely, there must
have been a stern reality, and a pious zeal also, among
those too much decried clerks who, long prior to the
Reformation, and even in the half-century that followed
it, left us such charming and durable monuments of
their self-sacrifice, and of their love for the Church! We
are doing something in the present day to keep pace
with our duty, I admit: but, are we at all approaching
the efforts put forth by our forefathers in this respect?
I fear not. Anyway, let us embalm in THE SHEAF
some of the more prominent examples of this ancient
clerical devotion for Mother Church! G. T.

Replies.

[1506] CHESHIRE LAWYERS.

[No. 1354.—Oct. 20, 1880.]

Mr. CANN HUGHES' query about Cheshire-born
lawyers has not, I think, received any reply. Here are
the names of a few of the most eminent:—

Lord Chancellor Ellesmere, son of Sir Richard
Egerton of Ridley, born about 1540.

Chief Justice Crewe, born at Nantwich in or about
the year 1588.

President John Bradshaw (the regicide) born at
Marple in 1602.

Lord Chancellor Steel, born at Sandbach.

Lord Chief Baron Humphrey Davenport, son of
William Davenport of Bramhall, born about 1565.

Chief Justice Arden (Lord Alvanley) born at Bred-
bury in 1746.

Sir John Williams, Attorney General, and Judge of
the King's Bench, born at Bunbury about 1777.

Gatley.

P. M. H.

[1507] HOLT, CO. DENBIGH.

[No. 1425.—Feb. 7, 1881.]

The town of Holt is said to have been an out-post to
Deva (Chester), and when Pennant visited this place he
saw coins of Antoninus, Gallienus, and Constantine. He

conjectures that the Roman name had been *Castra Legionis*: the Welsh called it *Castell Lleon* (or the Castle of the Legion), as it was garrisoned by a detachment of the Roman Legion stationed at Chester. The English borderers might easily have mistaken *Lleon* (a Legion) for *Llew* (a Lion), and have thence named it the *Castle of Lions*—hence “Ye town of Lyons”—as we find it called when it came into the possession of Earl Warren and his successors. In the immediate vicinity we still have Dutton’s name perpetuated in the Townships of Dutton-y-Brane, Dutton Caca, Dutton Diffeth.

Wrexham.

J. F. EDISBURY.

[1508] NANTWICH CHURCH PLATE.

[No. 1454.—January 5.]

From an inventory, dated June 20, 1763, it appears that the Plate still belonging to this church was that then in use. It consists of the following:—

CHALICE (London Hall Mark, 1604) fitted with loose lid, on which is engraved the date 1605. Nothing known of its history; but it may have been provided by the churchwardens, in accordance with the xxth canon of 1604, that the wine “be brought to the Communion Table in a clean and sweet standing pot or stoop of pewter, if not of purer metal.”

Another CHALICE (London Hall Mark, 1633) evidently meant to correspond with the last, but without any lid. The following inscription runs round the bowl, the date figures forming the centres of four roses:—

“(1) Ex dono (6) Alicie (3) Wilbraham (3) de Dorfold.”

The donor was the wife of Ralph Wilbraham, who in 1616 completed the erection of the present Dorfold Hall, and daughter of Thomas Mainwaring of Nantwich. She was married in 1590; and died in 1635, as appears from the following entry in the Nantwich Burial Register:—

“1635. Mrs. Ales Wilbraham, widdowe, died at Namptwich, buried att Acton [March] the 23.”

TWO LARGE FLAGONS (London Hall Mark, 1659). Each bears the following inscription:—

“The gift of Eliz: Dauenport and Margt. Woodnoth, widdowes, To ye Church of Namptwich, 1659.”

Above this there are two coats of arms surmounted by crests,—one a griffin, the other a man’s head with a rope round his neck.

By a deed dated May 6, 16 Charles I. (1639), the above-named ladies granted certain

“Tithes of Wich-Malbanke, Willaston and Leighton” to certain Trustees, who were to receive “the full sum of twenty-six pounds of lawfull money of England,” and “with the said six and twenty pounds, provide and buy two Silver Flaggons and a Silver Paten, and deliver the same to the churchwardens of the Parish Church of Wiche-Malbank;”

and the rest of the money “to the use of the preaching Minister in and for the said Town of Wich-Malbanke for the time being, soe long as there be a preaching Minister.”

It appears the Flagons were not bought till 20 years after this, 1659. Nothing is known as to the Paten. But there is a

SILVER PATEN, a thin beaten-out plate, no date, and, possibly, not of English workmanship. Nothing known about it. It appears to be 17th century work, and may, indeed, be the one presented by the two ladies above-named.

TWO SILVER ALMS DISHES. (London Hall Mark, 1732-3.) No date, but the following inscription on each:—

*The
Gift of Mrs.
ELIZ: WILBRAHAM
Relict of STEPHEN
WILBRAHAM,
ESQ^r.*

She was the daughter of Thomas Hoole, of Bostock, and widow of Crispin Birch. She was married to her second husband, STEPHEN WILBRAHAM, in 1708, whom she survived 21 years, being buried at Nantwich on 26th Jan., 1753.

An old *Apostle Spoon*, not of English workmanship, was added in 1873.

A silver *Strainer* (London Hall Mark, 1822) was given in 1879.

There is also a very large *Pewter Dish*, on which is the following:—

“A citizen of London gave this Bason and two Bread Plates to the Church of Nantwich, April 4. An’o Dom. 1640.”

This is now superseded by a Brass Alms Dish, given to the Church in 1872.

For want of a second Paten we have to use the Chalice-lid every Sunday. Will someone take the hint, and give us a Paten worthy of our Parish Church?

FOSTER G. BLACKBURN.

Nantwich Rectory.

[1509] EBBING AND FLOWING WELL.

[No. 1469.—Jany. 19.]

BAINES (*History of Lancashire*, vol. iv. p. 732) says:—

“At Pit Farm, in Cartmel parish, there is an intermitting spring, less celebrated than, though of the same nature as, the Giggleswick Well in Yorkshire; of which an itinerant wit of the 17th century has observed:—

“Near to the way as the traveller goes,
A fresh spring both ebbs and flows;
Neither know the learn’d that travel,
What procures it, salt or gravel.”

The theory of these phenomena, broached by the venerable and learned John Gough [the antiquary], seems to give a satisfactory solution of the difficulty;

and it is now pretty generally admitted that the effect is produced by a natural compound syphon, formed in the recesses of the hills from whence the waters flow."

Buncoorn.

T. T.

In Whitcombe's *Bygone Days in Devon and Cornwall*, 12mo., 1874, and at p. 95, I find the following notice of a similar Well to that referred to by your correspondent:—

"Near Brixham Church (Devon) there was formerly an intermitting or rather variable spring, called "Lay Well," about a mile from the sea. This spring has now ceased to exist, as the surveyor of highways had part of it filled up during some improvements in the neighbourhood. 'We were informed,' says Dr. Attwell (*Philosophical Transactions*, No. 424), 'on our arrival, by a man working just by the basin, that the spring had flowed and ebbed about twenty times that morning, but had ceased to do so for half-an-hour before we came. I observed the stream running in the basin for more than half-an-hour by my watch, without perceiving the least variation in it, or the least alteration in the height of the water in the surface of the basin. Thus disappointed, we went to the inn to take some refreshment, when we were told that many had been disappointed in the same way, and that the common people attributed it to I know not what influence, which the presence of some person had over the fountain; for which reason they advised, in case it did not ebb and flow when both were present, one should absent himself.' It may be presumed Dr. Attwell acted on the suggestion, as it is recorded he afterwards saw it ebb and flow constantly."

J. L. DENSON.

[1510]

JOHN FREERIE.

[No. 1490.—Feb. 2.]

He was a native of CHESTER; graduated at Edinburgh, and then settled at MANCHESTER, where he materially assisted in the establishment of the "Literary and Philosophical Society." To their *Memoirs* he contributed many valuable papers, one of which, on the plagiarisms of Sterne, attracted so much notice as to be printed in a separate form with additions. Dr. FREERIE became senior physician to the Infirmary, Dispensary, Lunatic Hospital and Asylum, Manchester, and died there in February, 1815, aged 51. He had written:—

Medical Histories and Reflections, Lond., 1792. 8vo. Vol. ii., Lond., 1795, 8vo. Vol. iii., 1798, 8vo. A new edition of the whole, 3 vols., Lond., 1810, 8vo. A fourth vol. appeared in 1813.

Illustrations of Sterne, with other Essays, 1798, 8vo. Another edition, including the Bibliomania, Lond., 1812, sm. 8vo., 2 vols.

An Essay on the Medical Properties of the *Digitalis Purpurea*, or Foxglove; Manch., 1799, 12vo.

Bibliomania: An Epistle to Richard Heber, Esq.; Lond. 1809, 8vo.

An Essay towards a Theory of Apparitions, Lond., 1813, 8vo. "A scientific and rational work."—Lowndes.

cf. Watt's *Bibliotheca Britannica*. | *The Lounger's Common Place Book*, edit. 1838; vol. ii., pp. 227-232. | *Bibliographer's Manual*, by Lowndes. | *Biographical Dictionary of Living Authors*, 1816, pp. 115, 430 |.

Buckland Brewer.

J. I. DREDGE.

FEBRUARY 23, 1881.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- Feb. 23.—Sir Richard Grosvenor, of Eaton Boat, knight, created a Baronet 1621
 „ 24.—St. John's Chapel, Norley, in Frodsham parish, consecrated by Bishop John Bird Sumner 1835
 „ 26.—King Edward III.'s Confirmation Charter to Macclesfield, granted at York 1334
 „ 28.—King John visited Chester, as appears by certain Charters on the Close Rolls 1206
 Mar. 1.—The Cheshire Militia returned home to Chester, after long active service in other parts of the kingdom 1783
 J. H.

Original Documents.

[1511] FUNERAL OF LADY BROOKE OF NORTON, 1650.

From Harl. MS. No. 2129, the following account of Lady Brooke's funeral is extracted. The procession was marshalled by "Mr. Holme the Herald," or in other words, by RANDLE HOLME the second, joint deputy along with his old father to Norroy, King at Arms, and Mayor of CHESTER in 1643:—

"Order of the funerall of the lady Brookes of Norton. She dyed in Chester & was brought to Norton, & from thence to Roncorne, on holy Thursday or Assention day 1650.

peter drinkwater. the penon of her cotes.

John Sutton. Abram foxley.

Willm. Walker, the Impaled penon. the preacher.

Mr. Holme the Herald.

the corpes borne by gent'.

Mrs. Hyde. Mrs. Marbury.

Mrs. Dorethy brookes. Tho.* brookes wife

Mr. Tho. brookes wife. Mr. Rich. brookes wife

* Altered from something else.

Mr. Jo. brookes wife. Mrs.....[sic]
the gentlewomen of kindred in black 2 & 2.

Collonell brookes alone.

Mr. Rich. [Brooke]. Mr. Jo. brookes
Mr. Hyde. Mr. Marbury.
the unkells & grandchildren.
the kindred not in black."

Lady Brooke was Katherine, daughter of Sir Henry Neville of Billingsbere in Berkshire, and was the second wife of Sir Richard Brooke, of Norton, Knight. Mrs. Hyde and Mrs. Marbury, who were present with their husbands at the funeral, were the deceased lady's daughters. Mrs. Dorothy Brooke, another daughter, was afterwards Mrs. Lawrence Hyde. Colonel Brooke would be Henry Brooke, Esq., afterwards created a baronet, the then owner of Norton Priory, and eldest son of Sir Richard, who had been dead for more than twenty years. Mr. Thomas Brooke, Mr. Richard Brooke (professor of physio), and Mr. John Brooke, who were present with their wives, were younger sons, and may all be found in Sir Peter Leycester's *History of Bucklow Hundred*, page 327.

Thelwall.

J. P. RYLANDS.

[1512] CHESTER CORN MARKET.

The necessity for providing food for the people at reasonable rates, was a problem ever present to the minds of local as well as national legislators in mediæval times. There was always a tendency on the part of speculative merchants, and we had plenty of them in CHESTER in those days, as perhaps just a few still, whose one object seems to have been, to buy in the cheapest and sell in the dearest market; and there were not wanting numbers of our friends the bakers who, if they only chanced to have plenty of sacks of flour stored up in their granaries, loved vulture-like to fill their coffers at the expense of the private consumer. This was right enough perhaps in prosperous times, when trade was good, and the working classes fully employed and well paid; but in periods of dearth and scarcity, it meant privation and even death to the very poor.

In the far off days of Henry VIII. and Queen Mary, as we shall see by the following Orders of the Corporation of CHESTER, our oivic parliament found itself face to face with this social problem; and this is the way in which an effort was made to grapple with the evil:—

"TEMPORIS HENRICI GEE, MAYOR'S.

No Corne to be sold but in the markett, & not to be seen or op'ned till ye Bell be rung.

Hit ys orderyd at An Assemble holden w'tin the pentice of the Citie of CHESTER by HENRY GEE, mayre of the Same, and by the sheriffs, Recoorder, and bretheren Aldermen and Com'on Counsell of the Same Citie, that eu'y man' of p'son or p'sons comynge vnto this markyt w'tin the saide Citie, w't all man' of corne and grayne to be sould, shalnot brynge vpon A m'kett daye no corne to no man' of place w'tin this citie, nor the lib'ties of the Same, to be

sould, but onely Into the markyt place w'tin this Citie Assigned; and that none of the saide corne brought in to the said markyt to be Sould shall not be shewid, ne openyd, vnto Suche tyme as the markyt Bel be Rounge; and that no manar of byrs Comm Into the markyt place to the intent to by anye manar Corne or grayne, vnto suche tyme as the Saide bell be Rounge.

All housholders first to bye Corne at one of ye Clock, all bakers to bye at 2 of ye clock, all comon people to bye till 3 of the Clock, and all those that sell Corne to stand by their sacks.

And then Imedyately after the saide bell be Rounge, It shalbe Lawfull to all and eu'y Citizine w'tin this Citie Aforesaide Inhabytinge, for ther onne prop' vae to the maytenaunce of ther housoulde, to by allman' of corne & grayne, so that ther be but one byre in the markyt for every housoulde: and then, after one of the clocke, yt shalbe Lawfull for all man' of bakers Inhabytinge w'tin this Citie to go Unto the Saide markyt, and ther to by ther Corne and grayne wyth eu'y one of them As shalbe for them Requiset. And then at ij of the Clocke, it Shalbe lawfull to all and eu'y the Comon peple to com into the Saide markyt, and ther to bye at ther lib'ties, till iij of the clocke, all manar of Corne and grayne as for them and eu'y of them shalbe Requiset.

And allso mayster mayre stratelye Com'andyth that no man' of p'son, ne p'sons, Coming in to this Citie Apon the markyt daye to sell corne and all manar of grayns, shall not goo Abrode in the Saide markyt to disturbe nor Let the Same, But shall pacyentlye stand By his or there Corne w'ch they haue there to Sell.

None to by Barley to make malt before one of ye Clock, vpon pain of xijd. or to be Imprisoned.

"Item, that no man' of p'son shalby barly to make maults of Before j of the Clocke, vpon Payne for eu'y tyme so offending, xij'd., to be leuyed to th' use of the Com'on box, or to Remayne In Warde Unto such tyme he or they pay the Same."

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1513] CHESHIRE CHEESE CUSTOMS.

I think the following Note, which I found in the *Manchester City News* for February, is deserving permanent record in the county to which it belongs. I therefore send it under the hope you may give it a home in THE SHEAF:—

"CHESHIRE has long been famous for its cheese, and some of the old Cheshire farmers are very proud, and justly so, of the produce of their dairies. In connection with selling and weighing cheese some very curious customs and prejudices

have grown up, and, as I have never seen any account of them in print, I think they may be worth recording.

The price at which a farmer sold his cheese was always considered a profound secret, and was rarely told to any one, not always even to his own wife. The reason for this reticence will be pretty plain when we remember that, in Cheshire, the dairy was entirely under the management of the farmer's wife and daughters; and as every farmer in the county believed that the best cheese in the county was made by his own wife, none of them would tell the price at which they had sold their cheese, for fear of destroying this dearly-cherished illusion.

It used to be a standing rule with a good many old farmers to insist on cash payment in gold, as soon as the cheese had been weighed. The reason they gave was, that they liked the cheese and the money to sleep together one night. All the cheese made before the cows were turned to grass, which always took place on Old May-day, or earlier if there was any grass for them to eat, was called "boose cheese." This was sold to the dealer, (who by the way was always called a factor), as soon as ready, usually from June to September. About the month of October the farmer usually sold his first hundred cheeses, that is, one hundred cheeses reckoned forward from the day on which he turned his cows out to grass. This was to him the great event of the year.

After he had agreed with the factor about the price, there was another difficulty to be got over. The cheese must be weighed, but how? The farmer had no means of weighing 100 or even 50 cheeses at once; and as he frequently could not read or write, a statement of the weights of 100 cheeses, to be added up when all had been weighed, was quite out of the question. The farmer, however, had a very primitive way of getting over this difficulty. He had got an ordinary pair of scales and two 60lb. weights, which, added together, were equal to 120lbs., or one long cwt. He ascertained how many cheeses came nearest to that weight, and then got a quantity of boulder stones of various sizes, which he used instead of small weights, and when he had weighed the first lot he found the weight to be one cwt. and say four boulder stones. These stones were then placed on the floor near to the end of the scales on which the cheese had been placed, and were then called cheese. The fact that a cwt. of cheese had been weighed was then recorded on the wall of the cheese room. This was usually done by a scratch made with a rusty nail. The process was then repeated, and some more stones added to or deducted from the pile; or possibly a corresponding pile of stones begun at the other end of the scales, and if so, these were called weights. When all the cheese had been weighed, and the number of cwts. ascertained by counting the marks on the wall, the two piles of stones, or cheese and weights, as they were called, were balanced, the one against the other, and the surplus or deficiency was added to, or deducted from, the total quantity as the case might be.

This custom, though now obsolete, was quite common in Cheshire in the early part of the present century. Education has taught the farmer how to weigh his cheese, but somehow too frequently he finds that his wife has forgotten how to make it.

CHESHIRE cheese is always sold by the farmer to the dealer by the cwt. of 120 lbs. Prejudice and an aversion to change have doubtless had much to do with the retention of this old system; but the facilities which it afforded for making easy calculations have, probably, had more to do with its continuance to the present time. That it is much simpler to use the long than the short cwt. will, I think, be clearly seen from the following figures:—

Short weight	1lb. cheese, @ 8d.=	0s. 8d.
	1cwt (112lbs) @ 8d.=	74s. 8d.
	1 ton @ 8d =	£74 13s. 4d.
Long weight	1lb. @ 8d.=	0s. 8d.
	1cwt (120lbs) @ 8d.=	80s. 0d.
	1 ton @ 8d =	£80 0s. 0d.

Farmers have often been advised by their friends to give up this old custom, but so far, I believe, without any practical result. When the duty on foreign corn was abolished, many farmers in Cheshire came to the conclusion that they were going to be ruined; and that any further effort on their part would be useless, unless something was done to help them by the landowners or the Legislature, or by both combined. So a meeting was held at CONGLETON, and the farmers stated their case; which, if I remember rightly, simply amounted to a request to have the corn duty reimposed, or their rents lowered by about fifty per cent. It is scarcely necessary to say that the latter proposal was not accepted, and a clerical landowner who was present told the farmers that it was useless to pass laws in favour of a class, who were too stupid to take advantage of laws which had already been enacted for their special advantage. For instance, he said, if they would only sell their cheese by the cwt. of 112lbs. instead of 120lbs. they would by this means alone increase their incomes by more than six per cent! Somehow the farmers did not seem to see it.

THOMAS WORTHINGTON.

Wythenshawe."

Northenden.

E. L. Y. DRACLE.

[1514] PARKGATE CUSTOM-HOUSE.

The simile in the annexed paragraph from the *Chester Courant* of February 11, 1812, though appropriate enough, is new to me, and is worth registering in THE SHEAF, in connection with the once lively Custom-House at the 'port' of PARKGATE.

"On Friday last, aged 83, Mr. John Humphreys, waiter and searcher at Ness Colliery within this port, in which capacity he had been upwards of sixty-five years a faithful and good officer: he never experienced an hour's illness, nor had he ever the tooth or headache, and at last dropped off "like a pear that is mellow."

G. T.

Queries.

[1515] ST. MARY'S PARISH, CHESTER.

I don't know how the authorities of our day make up the Assessment of ST. MARY'S Parish for rating purposes; but I gather from a curious little volume, now before me, how this was done in the year 1813. Mr. T. Shone and Mr. J. Harrison valued the houses within the parish, and Mr. Thomas Wedge the lands; the latter, according to him, being of the annual value of £5,906 15s., which he makes up thus:—

	“A. R. P.”				
Handbridge ...	1,080	2	20	worth	£2,780 0 0
Upton	911	3	20	„	1,698 9 0
Moston	283	0	0	„	468 5 0
Waverton	234	2	20	„	558 7 0
Mollington	223	2	0	„	384 4 0
Marlston	14	0	0	„	17 10 0
	2,747	2	20		£5,906 15 0”

This would give an average agricultural value of about 48s. per statute acre per annum, and at thirty-three years' purchase, a capital value of about £76 per acre for the land unbuilt upon in the Parish. It would be curious to know what these lands are now valued at for rating purposes: the selling value of the land has, as is known, more than doubled in the sixty-seven years intervening between 1813 and 1880.

ST. MARY'S.

[1516] THE POWER OF THE IMAGINATION.

Some time ago a poor man was taken to a local hospital of repute, he being ill of some disease which the medical men could not account for, and from which he was gradually wasting away. One of the nurses found that he was under the impression he should die on a certain day, and at a certain hour of that day; because he had been “put in some particular WELL,” which by a pretended charm would cause his death! The Doctor was told of this, and on the day which he had mentioned he should die on, a sleeping draught was given to him, with the hope that the hour would be passed in his sleep. The nurse, noticing that he was very restless in his sleep as the dreaded hour approached, went to the clock tower, and moved forward the fingers of the clock. He soon after awoke, and on learning that the clock had struck, and that the fatal hour had passed, the charm was treated as broken, and he soon after fully recovered his health.

Perhaps some of your correspondents could inform me of the mode of “putting people in this WELL,” and where it is situated? The “putting in,” as I understood it, was not by actual immersion. It is supposed that the WELL is situated somewhere in North Wales.

AN ENQUIRER.

Replies.

[1517] PARISH LIBRARIES.

[No. 1845.—Oct. 3, 1880.]

There is a small theological library for the use of the Parochial Clergy in the Vestry of the Church of St. Michael, Maccolesfield. I have looked in vain in all the local histories for information about the origin of this Library.

Gatley.

P. M. HERFORD.

[1518] THOMAS CRANE.

[Nos. 1462, 1483.—Jan. 12, 26.]

Mr. Crane published a small History of Chester, which is not mentioned among the list of his publications in to-day's SHEAF. I have a copy of it.

Great Saughall.

W. H. BRADFORD.

THOMAS CRANE did not, I think, use his Motto as Mr. T. HUGHES quotes it from RANDLE HOLME. Two books which have his book-plate give it, “*Qui corvos pascit pascere potest græcos.*” The books were bought in CHESTER in 1852. They are both interesting in themselves; and the possession of such shows the taste of a collector. One is a book known to scholars in several early editions, the “*Fasciculus temporum omnes antiquorum cronica complectens.*” It is a very good, and perfectly clean copy, in black letter, with a wide margin, and the curious monkish frontispiece; and brings the Chronicles down to 1484, which is probably about the date of its printing. The other is a rare book, in a delightful state, quite perfect, full-bound in russia, and appropriately gilt, with all the charming wood-engravings. A copy was shown at the Caxton Celebration in London, in 1877. It is the “*Biblia cum tabula nuper impressa et cum summaris noviter editis*” of Simon Bivilaqua; and by him, “*Impressum Venetiis, 1498, die octavo. Maii.*” I have seen a third copy in the University Library at Cambridge.

Wrenbury.

T. W. N.

[1519] EGBERTON, A CHESHIRE NAME.

[Nos. 86, 1888.—June 12, 1878, Feb. 7th, 1881.]

In my researches I find the following pedigree, taken by Camden “out of an ancient Rolle belonging to Sir Wm. Brereton, of Brereton, Kgt.,” illustrating the changes which occurred in family names before hereditary surnames were fully established. It will be there seen that in four descents, and among about 15 people descended from one and the same individual, there were no less than 18 surnames! It is also worthy of remark that we have here in one family, within probably a single century, *æse* descriptions of surnames, namely,—FOREIGN, as Belward; LOCAL, as De Malpas, De Cotgrave; from PERSONAL QUALITIES,

as Gogh or red, and Little; from QUALITIES and ATTAINMENTS, as Goodman and Kenclarke; and from the PATERNAL NAME, as Richardson:—

"WILLIAM BELWARD, Lord of Malpas in Cheshire (soon after the Conquest), had two sons:—

1. DAN DAVID, of Malpas, called, on account of his scholarship, LE CLERKE. He had three sons, viz.:—

1. William, called DE MALPAS from his estate.

2. Philip, called GOGH—that is, Red. His descendants took the name of EGERTON.

3. David took the name of GOULBORNE from his Estate. This David had a son who took the name of GOODMAN, or rather received it from others, from the excellence of his character.

2. RICHARD, second son of William Belward, had three sons, viz.:—

1. Thomas, called DE COTGRAVE from his Estate.

2. William, called DE OVERTON from his Estate.

3. Richard, surnamed LITTLE from his short stature. This Richard again had two sons:—

1. A son called KENCLARKE—that is, 'Knowing Scholar.'

2. JOHN RICHARDSON, from his father's Christian name."

It is also said that the Vernons, Stockports, and Venables' ramified nearly as much as the Barons of Malpas did.

Wrexham.

J. F. EDISBURY.

[1520] "HIGGLEDY PIGGLEDY, MALPAS SHOT."

[Nos. 1473, 1481.—Jan. 19, Feb. 2.]

Since the appearance of my Reply in THE SHEAF, I have received the following letter from the MARQUIS OF CHOLMONDELEY, which, with a copy of my rejoinder, I now send to you for insertion:—

"1, Hyde Park Street,
Hyde Park-square, W.,
Feby. 9th, 1881.

My Dear Mr. Kenyon,—

In last week's *Chester Courant* I see a letter from you, respecting the appointment of two Rectors to the Parish of Malpas; and you speak of a Manuscript at Cholmondeley Castle, "showing that the Church was collegiate in the reign of King John." I know of no such Document, but there is in my possession an ancient Grant, dated 1285, from the two Rectors of that date, giving permission to HUGO DE CHELMUNDELEG to celebrate divine worship in his Chapel at Cholmondeley. You will find the Document given at length in the Old Edition of Ormerod's *Cheshire*. Pray forgive me for troubling you in this matter.

Very faithfully yours,

CHOLMONDELEY.

The Honble. and Rev. W. Trevor Kenyon.

Ormerod gives a list of the Rectors of Malpas from 1285, the date of the Grant."

"My dear Lord Cholmondeley,—It was very good of you to write to me to correct my inaccuracy. I should have said Edward I, instead of John. My recollection of the date was faulty. The Grant at all events shows clearly that the double Rectorate was in existence at that date; and, small as the college was, that would, I apprehend, involve the principle of one. If I do not hear from you that you have any objection, I propose to send your correction, and my acknowledgment of it, to THE SHEAF.

Believe me, very sincerely yours,

W. T. KENTON.

Higher Rectory,

Feb. 9, 1881."

Malpas.

W. T. K.

[1521] EPIGRAMS WRITTEN AT CHESTER BY
DEAN SWIFT.

[No. 1489.—Oct. 2, 1881.]

From the Reprint of *Bye-gones* for July, 1876, I copy the following notice of the event which aroused the Dean's ire:—

"Mr. T. HUGHES, F.S.A., writing to the *Cheshire Observer*, says that Swift, in one of his visits to Chester, put up at the Yacht Inn, and invited the Cathedral dignitaries and other clergy to join him at dinner. They seem to have neglected his invitation; whereupon the Dean wrote, with his diamond ring, on one of the windows of the inn, the following distich:—

'Rotten without and mould'ring within,

This place and its clergy are all near akin."

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

MARCH 2, 1881.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

March 3.—Lord Chancellor Brackley (previously Sir Thomas Egerton, Baron Ellesmere) surrendered the Great Seal to King James I.	1617
" 4.—Bishop Pearson's plan for reducing the Parishes in Chester rejected by the Corporation	1674
" 7.—Lieut.-Col. Egerton Leigh, of Jodrell Hall, elected M.P. for Mid-Cheshire, in succession to the late George Cornwall Legh	1873
" 8.—Thurstaston, in Wirral,—Exchange of Rectory Lands authorised by Bishop C. J. Blomfield	1826
	J. H.

Original Documents.

[1522] HAWARDEN CASTLE GARRISON.

The following is the copy of a Letter preserved at Llannerch Park, St. Asaph, from Lord CAPELL to Col. THOS. DAVIES, of GWYSENEY, who was Governor of HAWARDEN CASTLE, A.D. 1643:—

"For Col'n Davies at Hawarden, &c., &c.

Col'n Davyes,

You are desired to dispose ye Souldiers under your Com'and to their generall dwellings in the countrey, to-morrowe. Butt you and they are to bee ready to bee drawne together, at a dayes warning; to march according to further orders.

I rest

Y'r very affectionate friend,

ARTHUR CAPELL.

Chester,
5 Decemb'r, 1643."

ARTHUR CAPELL, Esq. (only son of Sir Henry Capell, by Theodosia, sister of Edward, Lord Montagu), was M.P. for oo. Hertford in the Long Parliament, and was created Baron Capell of Hasham, 6th August, 1641. He married Elizabeth, daughter and sole heiress of Sir Chas. Morrison, Kt., of Cashibury, Herts. Lord Capell fell a victim to his loyalty to Charles I., and was beheaded in Old Palace Yard, 9th March, 1648-9.

Owston, Doncaster. PHILIP B. DAVIES-COOKER.

[1523] BISHOP FRANCIS GASTRELL.

This distinguished prelate, and industrious antiquary, did more to preserve and classify the historic facts relating to the See of CHESTER than the whole of his predecessors and successors put together. Bishop BRIDGEMAN perhaps alone excepted. I think, therefore, the following record of his Election to the See, copied from the Act Book of the DEAN AND CHAPTER OF CHESTER, will have some interest for the readers of THE SHEAF:—

"17^o die Martij, 1713.

Nos Decanus et Capitulu' Ecol'ie Cathedral, Christi et b'te Marie Virginis Cestr', in domo n'ra Capitulari Capitalariter congregati, et Capitulum facientes, 17^o die Martij, Anno D'ni 1713, Ordinamus et decernimus ut sequitur,—

The day and year aforesaid, We, the Dean and Chapter aforesaid, being in full Chapter assembled, by virtue of Her Maj'ties writt of Conge d'eslier, to us directed, doe elect and make choise of FRANCIS GASTRELL, Doctor of Divinity, to be Bishop of CHESTER; and we doe consent that Our Certificate thereupon, and other instruments for the effecting thereof, doe forthwith pass under our Com'on Seal.

L: FOGG, Decan'.

AETH: FOGG.

SAMUEL SHAW.

JOHN OLIVER."

The Original Document or 'Conge-d'elire' from Queen Anne, for the Election of BISHOP GASTRELL, remains of record among the muniments of the Chapter of Chester.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1524] FITTON AND WARBURTON FAMILIES.

On the first of February instant, I was in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, where I saw a very large Monumental Brass, the inscription on which may interest some of the readers of THE SHEAF. It is placed in the south wall, in the passage at the back of the choir. At the top of the plate on one side are the figures of a man with nine of his sons, from the eldest of whom, on a flowing label rising from his mouth, proceed the Latin words "*Veni, domine IH'V, etiam veni cito, Amen re vlt'*;" and on the opposite side or corner the figures of a woman with six daughters, all kneeling; above them, in Old English characters, proceeding jointly from their lips, as if part of a Litany, the following invocation:—

"Glorify thy name; hasten thy kingdom; Comforte thy flock; confound thy aduersaries."

On the large flat surface of the Plate below is the following inscription:—

"Ser Edward Fitton, of Gansworth, in the Countee of Chester, in England, knight, was sent into Ireland by quene Elizabeth, to serue as the first L. president of her highnes Counsell w'tin the province of Connaght & Thomond, who landing in Ireland on the Assention day, 1569, A'o R.R. Elizabeth xi. lyued there in the Rome afore said till Mighellmas, 1572, A'o elizabeth xiii'o, & then that Counsell being dissolved, and he repaying into england; was sent ouer againe in Marche next folowing as Threasaurer at warres, vice-treasaurer, & Generall reseyvor, w'tin the realme of Ireland; and hath here buried the wyf of his youth, Anne, the second daughter of S'r peter warburton of Areley, in the County of Chester, knight; who were borne both in on yere, viz, he ye last of marche 1527, and she the first of Maye in the same yere, & were Married on sonday next after hillaries daye 1539, being ye 19 daye of Januarie, in the 12 yere of their age, and lyued together in true & lawfull Matrymonie inste 34 yeres: for ye same sonday of ye yeare wherein they were Married ye same sondaie 34 yeres folowing was she buried, though she faithfully dep'ted this lyf 9 daies before, viz, on saturdaye ye 9 daie of Januarie 1573; in w'ch tyme god gaue them 15 children, viz, 9 Sonnes and 6 daughters, and now her body slepeth vnder this stone, & her soule is retourned to god y't gave yt, & there remayneth in kepings of Christe Jesus her onely saviour.

And the said ser Edward dep'ted this lyef the thirddae of July, A'o d'ni 1579, and was buried the xxj daie of Septe'ber next folowing, whose fleshe also reeteth vnder the same stone, in assured hope of full & p'fecte resurrection to eternal lyef in ioye, through Christe his onely saviour.

And the said ser Edward was revoked home into England, and left this land the daye of ,
Anno domini , beinge the yere of his age."

I cannot conjecture the meaning of this last portion of the inscription; unless it was engraved previous to the statement of his death, and when it was supposed he would have returned to England, a blank being originally left after the statement of his wife's death.

In the proper right hand upper corner of the Brass is a shield with eight quarterings; and in the proper left corner another shield of six quarterings.

I turn now to a contemporary description of the Ceremony at the Funeral of LADY ANNE FITTON in St. Patrick's Cathedral, 17 Jan., 1573.

The account is taken from a copy inserted in Monk Mason's work on *St. Patrick's*, and purports to have been transcribed from a MS. of the Right Rev. Peter Sterne, D.D. The Bishop of Meath performed the service at the funeral:—

"The order in praydyng for the buriall of the worshypfull LADY FITTON, on sonday, bein the 17 day of January, Anno 1573.

Fyrst, serteyne youmen to goo before the penon wyth the arms of S'r EDWARDE FITTON, and hys wyfe's, decessed; and next after them, the penon, borne by Mister RICHARDE FITTON, second son to S'r Edw. Fitton and Lady, hys wyfe's, decessed, and sarten gentyllmen, servants to the said S'r Edw. Fitton; then the gentill-hoeshier, and the chaplens, and then "Ulster" Kyng of Armes of Ireland, weryng hys morning [mourning] gounne and hod, wyth hys cote of the Armes of Ynglande.

And then the corps of the sayd LADY FITTON, and next after the corps, the Lady BRABAZON, who was the principall morner, being lyd [led] and assisted by Syr RAFE EGERTON, Knyght, and Mister FRAN. FYTTON, Esq., brother to the sayd S'r Edwarde; and next after her, Mistress Agarde, wyfe to Mister Fran. Agarde; then Mistres Chalenor, wyfe to Mister John Chalenor; then Mistress Dyllon; then Mistress Bruerton, beyng the other IIII morners. Then, S'r EDWARDE FITTON, going bytwene the Archebysshoppe of Dublyn, and the Bysshoppe of Methe; then, S'r John Plunkett, chefe justice of Ierland; then Master Dyllon, beyng the chefe Baron; then Mister Fran. Agarde, and Mister John Challenor, wyth other men to the number of XIIIII gentyllmen; then sarten other gentyllwomen to the nomber of VIII; and then the Mayor of Dublyn, with hys brytherne the Schyreffes and aldermen; and the poure folks, VI men on the one syde of the Corps, and VI women on the other syde.

And so comyng to the Cherche of St. PATRYKE, where was a herse prepared; and when they cam to

the herse, the yomen stode halfe on the one syde, and halfe on the other; and the penon bered [bearer] stode at the fette of the corps; then the corps was layed uppon a payer of trestells within the herse, and the IIII morners were brought to ther places by 'Ulster' Kyng of armes afore-sayd; and the cheffe morner was brought to her place at the hede of the corps, and so the herse was closed; and the tow [two] assystans sett uppon tow stowles without the rayles.

And then Sarvyce was begon by the Bisshoppe of Methe, and after sarvyce there was a sermon made; and the sermon endyed, the company went home to the howse of the sayd S'r Edw. FITTON; and the corps was buryed by the reverent father, the Bysshoppe of Methe; and when the corps was buryed, the clothe was layd agayne uppon the trestylls within the herse, whych was deckyd with scochyons of armes in pale of hys and her armes; and on the morow the herse was sett over the grave, and the penon sett in the wall over the grave. And 'Ulster' Kyng of Armes had v yardes of fine blake clothe for hys lyvery, and 50s. sterlyng for hys fee, and the herse wyth the clothe that was on the corps, wyth all the furnytur there of the herse."

From another account I have met with, it would appear that Ulster King at Arms did not, immediately after the funeral, reap the benefit of his services for this elaborate ceremonial, as the Vicars Choral of the Cathedral disputed his right to the herse and materials; the question indeed not being finally settled till the year 1578, when, by an order of the Privy Council in Ireland, Ulster King at Arms was declared entitled to the herse and materials, which must have been of considerable value.

It also appears from the Order of the Council that the matter had been referred by them to the authorities in England for advice and directions; and that the Lord Deputy and Council in Ireland were directed to follow a decision in England in a similar case, where the heralds and pursuivants of arms disputed with the Dean and Chapter of St. Peter's, at Westminster, about "the herse of the Lady Catherine Knolles, with the furniture and garnishment thereof," and in which case the decision was in favour of the heralds and pursuivants.

Dublin.

W. MONK GIBBON.

[1525]

FLOODS IN CHESHIRE.

In connection with the great floods of the past month, the following extract may be of interest. It is taken from the Register of Nantwich Church:—

"1606.—This yeare passed was great Inundations and overflowings by the Seas in diuers parts of England, & Wales; whereby many people, and much cattell & other goods, perrished in the water. Which said floods fell out aboute the 20: of January 1606. God, of his infinite goodnes, preserue vs from the lyke: and dry vp the floods of sinne in our hearts."

Nantwich Rectory. FOSTER G. BLACKBURN.

Queries.

[1526] PHILIP HENRY'S DIARIES.

Extend from 1656 to 1696, and are written with a crow-quill in *Goldsmith's Almanac and Pocket Books*, which measure 4 inches by 2.

Any correspondent of *THE SHEAF* possessing one of these will confer a favour by communicating the fact to me through your columns.

Hammer, Whitburch.

MATT. H. LEE.

[1527] THE KING'S MOLE.

This was a local imposition of some sort in the middle ages. I have a note of it having come before me in my reading in days gone by; but as I do not seem to have apprehended its meaning then, any more than I do now, your readers may possibly some of them be able to explain the nature of the tax.

L. L.

[1528] CHESHIRE COCK PENNY.

It will be *SHEOVE TUESDAY*, or I suppose more correctly speaking *ASH WEDNESDAY*, when the next number of *THE SHEAF* makes its appearance. It will therefore be an appropriate time to enquire what is now known in the county of a once popular custom in Cheshire, that of "Throwing stones at Cooks" on the eve of Lent? Does the custom still lurklingly survive in the county, and if so, where? And what was the origin of so ungentle a treatment of that most useful domestic fowl?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[1529] CHESTER CATHEDRAL GREAT BELL.

I remember reading in a Chester Paper, more than twenty years ago, the statement that our Cathedral "big" Bell on the occasion of its being recast early in the last century was too large to enter the city through either of the great Gates, and had to be lifted bodily over the City Walls. Can any correspondent give me in *THE SHEAF* the particulars of this curious incident?

CAMPANOLOGUS.

Replies.

[1530] UNDER LYME.

[Nos. 1846, 1873.—Oct. 18, Nov. 3, 1880.]

A few days ago I met with an explanation of these words, which may be as new to some of your readers as it was to me.

"Under Lyme" is an addition to many names which at first sight is somewhat unintelligible, as no river or wood bears the name of Lyme at the present day; but a very good explanation has been given

of the phrase by supposing that in ancient times the great forest which spread over Shropshire was called 'Lyme,' a word denoting a boundary. This forest would be the barrier, boundary, or *lyme* between Cheshire and the South of England; and such towns or villages as lay in or near this immense wood were 'under the Lyme;' namely, Newcastle under-Lyme, Burslem or Burward's Lime, Andlem, or Ald Lyme, i.e., Old Lyme, Betton-under-Lyme, Little Drayton-under-Lyme, and Norton, which is called in the great Book of Shrewsbury Abbey 'Norton, which is near the forest called Lyme.'. In an old map the country between Drayton and Newport is delineated as covered with trees, and almost without population." *Lee's History of Market Drayton*, p. 146.

Galley.

P. M. H.

[1531] THE HONOR OF CHESTER.

[No. 1355.—Oct. 20, 1880.]

In a small 4to. MS. volume in my collection, and which I purchased some 25 years ago at the old-book shop of the late G. H. CROWTHER, of St. Werburgh Street, in this city, appears the following, under the head of "*Honor et Libertas Cestriae*":—

"The Earldom of Chester is often term'd *Honor Cestriae*, sometimes 'The Libertie of Chester.' To w'ch, w'tsoever Lands in any other parts of England belong'd, were not taxable, or perform'd K'ts Service w'th the rest of England, at ye K'ngs Com'and, but according to our Earls Orders.

Roll 30th Henry II., in the Exchequer at London, *inter alia* thus continues:—'Gilbert Pipard renders his account for 252li. 11s. 7d. for the farm of his Manor *Honoris Comitatus Cestriae*.'

Roll 33 of the same King, Bertram de Verdon renders an account of Adam de Aldithlea for 203li. 10s. 7d., of the *New Farm of the same Honor*.

This Adam de Aldithley is mention'd in a deed of S'r W'm Venables to Rosthorn Church, as being 'Custos Honoris Cestriae,' Hugh Novant being Elect B'p of Chester [he was Bishop, 1184-90]. So yt, Adam being *Custos*, Bertram was ye *Farmer*.

In an Inquisit. 3 Ed: I., 'Rob: de Monte Alto holds the Manor of Castle Riseing, county Norfolk, and the Manor of Farnesdon, with the Manor of Coventry, *ut de Honore Cestriae*.'"

This HONOR OF CHESTER therefore was one of the many semi-regal privileges attaching to the Norman Earldom of Chester, shewing that these Earls were almost as powerful and dominant in *their* territories as the King of England himself was in *his*.

T. HUGHES.

[1532] DICK BACH, THE WELSH TOM THUMB.

[No 1386.—Nov. 17, 1880.]

I find that PENNANT (*Tour in Wales*, vol. ii., p. 190.) had his attention drawn to these Welsh dwarfs during his stay at PENMORFA, a small parish about three miles from Criccieth in Carnarvonshire. This celebrated Welsh tourist and naturalist thus writes of the diminutive

tive couple to whom "H. S. A." in his Query as on other side refers:—

"During my stay at *Penmorfa*, I was desired to observe *Dick Bach*, a diminutive person, who casually called there. He was servant to a neighbouring gentleman, about the age of thirty, and only three feet eleven inches high. He was pointed out to me only for the sake of describing his sister, *Mary Bach o Cwmmain*, or *Little Mary of Cwmmain*; a well-proportioned fairy, of the height of three feet four. Her virtues are superior to her size: she brews, bakes, pickles; in short, does everything that the best housekeeper can do. Their parents live in these parts, and have many children of the common stature of man; but nature chose to sport in the formation of this little pair."

It would be interesting to learn if the parish registers at *PENMORFA* contain any notice of this lilliputian pair, and especially as to whether they married, and when they died? Possibly your occasional correspondent, Mr. BRESE, of Portmadoc, may be able to supply this information, in further illustration of Mr. Pennant's casual notice.

G. T.

[1533] THE COACHMAN'S LEAP.

[No. 1481.—Jan. 26.]

I have little doubt that the incident to which "L. L." refers in his Query as above, is that which occurred about half a century ago, rather more than less, at the old bridge at *OVERTON* on the *DEE*. But as your correspondent's family tradition is a little wide of the facts, I will relate the story here in the words of the once celebrated sporting writer "Nimrod."

He had been speaking of a "pretty" stage coachman of his day, one *Jem Robins*, who piloted the opposition coach to the old-established *Shrewsbury* and *Chester* "Highflyer," and whom he himself saw pitched off his coach and killed. In attributing the death entirely to the driver's want of proper care, he thus proceeds:—

"A most awful accident befel the fellow-servant to this *Jem Robins*, equally the effect of carelessness. In descending *OVERTON HILL*, between *WREXHAM* and *ELLESMERE*, he suffered the coach to get the better of his horses; and in passing the bridge at the bottom, in a turn, the coach made such a heel that he was thrown from his box into the *River Dee*, with a fall of about forty feet! He had his box coat on at the time, and the river was swollen by rain, so that his life must have been lost had not a fisherman been passing accidentally in his coracle, and picked him up."

The Rev. GEORGE J. HOWSON, Rector of *OVERTON*, and son of our active Dean of *Chester*, writes me on the subject as follows:—

"In 1817 or 1818, the stage coach had descended the hill at a rapid pace, and was coming round the corner of the old Bridge (a new one was erected some six years after), and the driver, being unsteady it is supposed, drove the wheel against the battlement, and he was sent clean into the river, the coach

going on all right! An old man of 80 tells me this, as the only accident of the sort he ever heard of here."

The gradient of the hill has been entirely altered since the substitution of the old bridge for the new, and the roadway widened considerably, so that there is now little fear of a repetition of "The Coachman's Leap."

Let me just record here, to prevent any historic difficulty in the future—through the sensational paragraph in the *London Papers* during the recent inundation in the *Dee* valley,—that there was not a scintilla of truth in the report that the *BANGOR* and *OVERTON* Bridges had been washed away by the flood. T. HUGHES.

[1534]

THOMAS PENNANT.

[No. 1493.—Feb. 10, 1881.]

A correspondent of *Bye-gones*, in 1874, told the story of "Pennant's Tour in *Chester*," in a quotation from *Walpoliana*, No. 169, vol. 1. After remarking on Pennant's antipathy to wigs, the passage goes on:—

"Dining once at *Chester* with an officer who wore a wig, Mr. Pennant became half seas over; and another friend that was in company carefully placed himself between Pennant and the wig, to prevent mischief. After much patience, and many a wistful look, Pennant started up, seized the wig, and threw it into the fire. It was in flames in a moment, and so was the officer, who ran to his sword. Down stairs ran Pennant, and the officer after him, through the streets of *Chester*. But Pennant escaped, from superior knowledge of topography. A wag called this—'Pennant's Tour in *Chester*.'"

In the *North Wales Art Treasures Exhibition*, held at *Wrexham* in 1876, there were two portraits of Pennant. One was the property of Mr. Townshend Mainwaring, and the other (by *Gainsborough*) of Mr. E. Cholmondeley.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

MARCH 9, 1881.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

March 10.—Thomas Dod, D.D., Dean of Ripon, died at Malpas	1647
" 12.—John Bradshaw, of Marple, (afterwards Lord President), re-appointed Chief Justice of Wales	1648
" 13.—Twenty-one men, charged with treasonable practices at Heaton Norris, Stockport, committed to Chester Castle	1817
" 15.—Voluntary Subscriptions raised in Chester for the defence of the country, £6,214 12s. 3d.....	1793
J. H.	

Original Documents.

[1535] BIRKENHEAD FERRY AND POOL.

The Priory of St. Mary at BIRKENHEAD, an establishment dating from the middle of the 12th century, was placed there by HAMON DE MASSEY, third Baron of Dunham Massey. It continued to be the property of the Church for just four centuries, falling at the Reformation, like most of the other religious houses, into the hands of Henry VIII. By that busy, and not too scrupulous, monarch the Priory, including its manorial rights, its fishery, and its ferry across the MERSEY and WALLASEY POOL, was granted in fee farm to RALPH WORSELEY, of Chester, and of Worsley, co. Lancaster, a servant and favourite of the King.

Other rights of fishery and ferry probably existed prior to that date, but they were not violently asserted while the Church remained in possession. No sooner, however, had WORSELEY taken to his new property, than the claims of the adjoining proprietors of LITTLE BEBINGTON and TRANMERE were set up in his very teeth; and, as appears by his Bill of Complaint now to be given, his fishery was intruded upon and impoverished, and his ferryboat neglected in favour of the invaders.

The Document now to be given has, so far as I can trace, never before been printed, and, if it has, not where it can be made readily available to the readers of THE SHEAF. The Original is preserved among the Records deposited in the General Record Office, London, under the head of "Miscellaneous Chancery Proceedings," and is in the following terms, a few words here and there being lost through damp or other misfortune:

"[To the Right Honorable and the Revende Father in God, Thomas (Goodrich), Lord Bishoppe [of Ely] and Lorde Cha'ncello' of Englande [1552].

SHREWTON and compleynyth vnto yo'r Honorable Lordeshippe youre daily Orato'r, RAUF WORSELEY, of the Cytie of London, and s'vante to the Kynges Ma'tie. That where the late Kinge of famousse memory, Kinge Henry the eight, [was] lawfully seysyd, in his demyne as of fee, of and in the late dissolved Priorie of BIRKENHEAD, in the Countie of CHESTER, and of and in the Mano'r or Lordeshippe of CLAUGHTON, and of and in one greате water called BIRKETT POLE adjoynynge vnto the see, where it doeth flowe and reflowe twyse in the day & nyght, together w'th other landes, tenements, and heredytaments in the said Countie of Chester, beinge p'cell of the possessions of the said late Priorie. And where also the said late Prio'r and all his predecessors, tyme owte of Man's remembrance, have ev'r had, and used to have, one ferye bote to be only kep'te and maynteyned vpon one arme of the see called MERSEY, betwene the seyd Priorie of BIRKET and the towne of LIT'FOLKE, in the Countie

of Lanc'; and that, by all the tyme aforesayd, it hath not ben used that anye other p'son inhabytyng thereaboutes shulde have or maynteyne any ferye bote in and vpon the sayd arme of the see called MERSEY; but that the said Prio'r and all his predecessors have ev'r had, and only kept and maynteyned, the said ferye boote, and have used the same boote only to carye and recary all the Kinges liege people w'ch have used to passe and repasse, over the said arme of the see, vnto anye place or places. And by reason thereof, the said Prio'r and his Predecessors have used to take of such p'sons as did passe ov'r the [aforesaid] arme of the see certen sum'es of Money at everie tyme that they have so passed, w'ch haith be'n yerely worth vnto the said prio'r and his predecessors the sum'e of five pounds an

And where also the said late Prio'r and all his Predecessors have ev'r, tyme owte of man's remembrance, had and used to have of all those p'sons w'ch have had, or have, anye fyshe yordes standinge [in] the said water called BIRKETT POLE, ev'ie Friday in the yere, all the fyshe that haith be'n gotten in ev'ie of the said fyshe yordes w'thin the said water, at the first tyde on the same day, w'thin ty[demark?] hayth be'n called 'the Lordes tyde' belonginge vnto the said late prio'r of the said Priorie, w'ch profett of the said fyshe, so gotten and had the first tyde, the said prio'r and his predecessors ev'r had and dyd [have and] p'ceyve as their own propre enheryt'unce, and verrye moche to their commoditye and profett.

All w'ch premysses, together w'th dyverse other lib'ties, profettes, and comodities, by the dyssoluc[ion] of] the sayd late priorie did lawfully come vnto the handes of the sayd late Kinge Henry the vijth. And the said late Kyng, so beinge of the seyd Priorie and the seyd Mano'r or Lordeshippe of CLAUGHTON and all other the premysses seysyd, by his *l'res patentes* bearinge date the xvijth day of Marche, in the xxxvjth yere of his mozte noble reigne, did clerely geve and graunte vnto yo'r said Orato'r all that the said late Priorie of BIRKENHEAD, and all the said Mano'r and Lordeshippe of CLAUGHTON, and all the landes, tenementes, and heredytamentes p'cell of the same; together w'th all liberties, franchises, pryvileges, Royalties, and all other the premysses w'th thapp'tenn'ces, in as large and ample manner as the said late Prio'r or anye his predecessors ever had used or enjoyed the same. To have and to holde all the premysses vnto youre said Orato'r his Heires and Assignes for ev'r, as by the said *l'res patentes* more playnely it doeth and may appere. By force whereof youre sayd Orato'r entred into all the premysses, and thereof was lawfully seysyd, in his demeyne as of fee; and the seid lyb'ties, pryvileges, Royalties, and franchises therunto belonginge, quietly had and enjoyed, as lawfull yt was for hym to doe.

And so it is now, right honorable Lorde, that dyv'rs *l'res patentes*, Ch'res, Dedes, Evidens, wrytynges, & mynumentes, concernynge the seyd landes, tenementes, lyberties, pryvyleg's, franchises, Royalties, and other the premysses before named,

are casually comen to the handes, custody, and possessyon of one JOHN MYNSHULL and JOHN BRUMBOROWE; by colo'r whereof the seyd JOHN MYNSHULL and JOHN BRUMBOROWE have now of late not only wrongfully entred into dyv'rs p'celles of the said Mano'r of CLAUGHTON, and the yssues and profettes thereof doe conv'rte to theire own vses; but also have made one Ferrye boote of theire owne, and the same doe kepe vpon the said Arme of the See called MERSE; and in the same boote doe vse to carry and recary dyv'rs, and the mooste parte, of all the Kinges liege people passinge ov'r the said Arme of the See betwene LEYV'POLE and the other places, and all the profettes thereof comynge doe take and converte to theire owne propre vses. And yet, not therew'th beinge contented, but myndinge further to vexe, trouble, and disenheryte youre seid Orato'r, have of late tyme kepte and maynteyned, and yet doe kepe and maynteyne, one fysshe yorde w'th in the seyd water called BIRKET POLE, and all the fysshe therein taken and goten, as well at the first tyde vpon everie Fryday, as also at all other tymes, doe take and conv'rte to theire owne propre vee; and in no wise will permytt and suffre youre seyde Orato'r to have the seyd fysshe, taken in the seyd fysshe yorde at the first tyde ev'ie Fryday accordinge to the aunoyent custome and vsuage there had and vsed, to the greate hurte, damage, and disenherytynoe of youre said Orato'r.

Wherefore, all the premysses consyderryd, and forasmooche as yo'r seid Orato'r knoweth not the c'ten numbre of the seyd l'res patentes, dedes, eviden's, oh'res, wrytinges, and mynumentes con-oynge the premysses, nor wherein they be conteyned, and therefore is clerely w'th owte remely for the recov'ie thereof by the due order of the Com' lawe: And also, for that youre seyde Orato'r is daily by the seid JOHN MYNSHULL and JOHN BRUMBOROWE disenheryt of dyv'rallyb'ties, pryvyleges, francheyses, Royalties, profettes, and other the premysses belonginge vn'o the said late priorie; May it therefore please youre good Lordeshippe to gra'nte the Kinges most gracyous wrytte of Subpæna, to be directed vnto the seid JOHN MYNSHULL and JOHN BRUMBOROWE, Commandinge them by vertue thereof personally to appere before youre good Lordeshippe, in the Kinges most Hon'orable Court of Cha'n'orie at Westm', there to make answere to all the premysses; and therein to abide suche ordre as to your good Lordeshippe shall be thought con-on'nte to Fqytie and conscience. And youre said Orator shall daily pray to God for youre good Lordeshippe in hono'r longe to contynue."

G. GERRARD."

The JOHN MYNSHULL named as one of the Defendants, was the manerial lord of CHURCH MINSHULL, in this county, and inherited Higher BEBINGTON and TRANMERE from the Bebingtons, who were the ancient lords of both townships.

The Writ of Subpæna prayed for was granted by the Lord Chancellor; and as I have copies of the Replication thereto by the Defendant's counsel, and of the Rejoinder

by WORSELEY, in my private collection, I may some day in a second article place these also on available record.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1536]

GREAT FROSTS.

Some of the following extracts were certainly seasonable enough during the month just ended:—

From the Register of Burials for NANTWICH Parish Church, in the year 1607:—

"This yeare 1607, was an extreame great frost, which begane a bout St Andrewes Day before Christyde, and continued till the first week of Lent followinge, which was a bout ix weekes. The extremity wheroof caused great scarcety of water for cattell, soe that many dyed in sundery places of this land; Tames at London was frosten 5 foote-thick. The same forced many suche as were de-seased to yeald to nature; especially ould people. The Lord in mercy soften our frosten hearts as we may the better embrace the word of God, and be freed from the lyke punishments."

From another reliable local source we have an earlier example, as follows:—

"1599. The 27th of January the River Dee was frozen over, and certain of the Citizens went to walk thereon, not remembring to keep holy the Sabbath-day, so that amongst divers that hardly escaped, three young men fell through the Ice and were drowned."—(*The Vale Royal of England*, folio edn., 1656, p. 208.)

Then, from the second edition of the *Vale Royal*, published by Poole of Chester, in 2 vols. 8vo., the two entries following:—

"1739. This year commenced the great frost which continued thirteen weeks. The ice on St. John's Dee was above three feet thick; and a large sheep was roasted whole upon it, opposite the Bowling-green. Carts and horses laden went frequently over the river."—(*The Vale Royal of England*, 8vo. edn., 1772, p. 638.)

"1773. On Monday, November the 16th, there was a greater flood than has been remembered here for many years; it overflowed the Old and New Quay, and part of Crane St., doing considerable damage. It likewise washed down part of the Rood-Eye copp, & overflowed the same."—(*Ibid*, p. 648.)

Nantwich Rectory. FOSTER G. BLACKBURN.

[1587] PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION OF

CHESTER, CITY AND COUNTY.

(Continued from No. 1460.)

12 James I. (1614).

Summoned to meet at Westminster, 5 April, 1614.

Dissolved 7 June, 1614.

EDWARD WHITBY, Recorder.

JOHN BINGLEY, Merchant.

The above are the names as given both by *Ormerod* and *Hemingway*. In the Parliamentary Blue Book there were no returns found for scarcely any constituency. *Browne Willis*, in *Not. Parl.*, gives

EDW. WHITBY, Recorder.

JOHN SAVAGE, Q.

with this explanatory note appended thereto:—

“N.B.—About 100 names still remain unsupplied or unfilled up; and of these here given, above 130, as must be confessed, are conjectural as to the Places represented: however, as it is before observed, they being most of them mentioned as Members of Parliament, and occurring so in the Journals, I humbly presume that my endeavours to exhibit this List in the manner here done will not be unacceptable to the curious.

There being, in no office of Record whatsoever, any entry of the Members of this Parliament, what is here drawn up from the best information that can possibly be procured, after many years' endeavours,—and as the greatest part of the Members here inserted occur in the Journals of the House of Commons,—it is to be hoped that the assigning them their places in this manner, with the letter Q. for query, will be allowed and accepted till an exact and perfect List can be made, if ever proper materials for such should be found, and the returns of every place regularly ascertained as in other Parliaments.”

EDWARD WHITBY, Recorder, was chosen to that office 13 August, 1613, on the decease of Thomas Gamull (formerly also Member for Chester), during the time that his father Robert Whitby was Mayor, and Thomas Whitby, probably his uncle, Sheriff. He died at the Bache, April 8, 1639. He married the widow of Thomas Gamull, formerly M.P. and Recorder.

JOHN BINGLEY, described as Merchant, was a native of this city and a Freeman, but had removed to London. He was the unsuccessful candidate at the last election. The Editor of *THE SHEAF*, in his article No. 370, is inclined to believe him to have been a lawyer, judging from his handwriting, and address “Westminster.”

18 James I. (1620-1).

Summoned to meet at Westminster, 16 January, 1620-1.
Dissolved 8 February, 1621-2.

In this Parliament also there is no return mentioned in the Blue Book, but other authorities give

EDWARD WHITBY, Recorder.

JOHN RADCLIFFE, Alderman.

Browne Willis adds this note:—

“This Parliament, as I am inform'd, is the first List entered in the Journals of the Minute Books of the House of Commons; from whence it was made thus perfect, by a worthy member thereof, when I began these collections.”

EDWARD WHITBY. See Parliamt. 12 James I., 1614,
JOHN RADCLIFFE was Sheriff of Chester in 1590.
and Mayor in 1601, 1611, and 1628, and was father of

John Radclyffe, Recorder and Member for the city, of whom further. He also represented the city in the Parliament of 3 Charles I., 1627-8.

21 James I. (1623-4).

Summoned to meet at Westminster 12 February, 1623-4.
Dissolved on the King's death, March 24, 1624-5.

EDWARD WHITBY, Esq., Recorder.

JOHN SAVAGE, Esq.

EDWARD WHITBY. See Parliamt. 12 James I. 1614.

JOHN SAVAGE, Esq., third son of Sir JOHN SAVAGE, of Bock Savage, who died in 1615. His grandfather, Sir John Savage, of Clifton, was Sheriff of Cheshire in 1560, 1565, 1570, 1573, 1574, 1579, and 1591, and Mayor of Chester in 1569, 1574, and 1597, dying during his last year of office on the 5th December. Sir JOHN SAVAGE, the father, was Mayor of Chester, and Sheriff of Cheshire, in 1607.

Ledsham.

R. M.

Queries.

[1538] THE GERARDS OF CHESTER.

[No. 1375.—Nov. 10, 1880.]

Sir WILLIAM GERARD, knight, one of the Members of Parliament for the City of CHESTER, who died May 1, 1581, among other particulars, is said to have left two sons and four daughters.

A RICHARD GERARD, Rector of STOCKPORT from 1577 to 1614, was presented to the Living by GILBERT GERARD, Attorney-General to Queen Elizabeth, and the WILLIAM GERARD above referred to. Can “R. M.,” or any of your correspondents, identify this Rector as one of the sons of the said Sir WILLIAM GERARD?

Stockport.

H. H.

[1539] OVERTON MADOC, NEAR RUABON.

The three Queries following I am anxious to get inserted in *THE SHEAF*:—

1. There was in this parish a farm, overlooking the River Dee, about a quarter of a mile this side of the Bridge, called the “Palace.” Can any one enlighten me as to the origin of the name?

2. There is also a field called the “Castle Field” below the Village by the river, in the direction of the woods surrounding the old house called *Llan-y-Cefn*. It is said that Madoc ap Moredydd ap Bleddyn (from whom came the name OVERTON MADOC) built the castle in the 12th century? But I can find no trace of it, or relics of any kind.

3. In the Register, date 1778, I find an entry of the burial of “Margaret the Harper.” Can you find me anything about this individual, or is she no celebrity at all?

Overton, Ruabon.

GEORGE J. HOWSON.

[1540] INFANGTHEOF AND OUTFANGTHEOF.

This was a custom claimed, amongst many others of a more or less unintelligible character, by the Lords of Manors in Cheshire; but I suspect the term is High Dutch to very many of your readers, as I confess it is to me, though that is unfortunately in my case not saying very much. Perhaps the active staff now engaged on THE SHEAF may know somewhat more of this local custom than can be at all pretended by

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[1541] VICARS' CROSS.

What is the origin of this word as applied to a locality a mile or so to the eastward of old CHESTER? If not a title of modern application, at what early date is it met with in our county's history? Enquiries a short time since from owners of property on the spot have failed to resolve my doubts. Perhaps some clue may be obtained through your columns; but the only Cheshire history I have access to in this Boycotting country of mine tells me not a word upon the subject.

Cork. .

HIBERNIA.

 Replies.

[1542] THE UGLY HAG OF NANNERCH.

[No. 1472.—Jan. 19.]

ARTHUR, the hero of the Round Table, whose praises have been sung, and prowess immortalized, by numberless poets of England and of Cambria, and most of all perhaps in our own day, spent portion of his wild-oat life in the neighbouring county of Flint. It is to this part of his career that the Query recently inserted by "CAMBRO-BRITON" directly refers. Perhaps my best way of replying to him is to quote as follows from *The Cambrian Popular Antiquities*, by Peter Roberts, A.M., Rector of Llanarmon; London, 1815, pp. 93-6:—

"Arthur, now at peace with his neighbours (Cerdic of Wessex, and others), seems to have given himself up for some time to the idle and dangerous pursuit of youthful pleasures; and, for those of the chase, to have made choice of CAERWYS and NANNERCH, in Flintshire, in North Wales. It is said of him while there, that being separated from his train in the chase he lost his way, and coming to the mouth of a cave entered it, and found therein three gigantic beings, viz., an old woman, and her son and daughter.

The mother and son wished, lest their retreat should be discovered, to put Arthur to death; the daughter by her entreaties prevailed so far, that the mother agreed to spare his life, if next morning he should be able to deliver a *triad of truths*. The conditions being accepted, Arthur was well entertained, and the son played exquisitely on the harp to amuse him. But when Arthur went to repose, the son laid over him an ox-hide so heavy that he could

not move under it, but was confined by it till the sun came in the morning to take it off.

Arthur then delivered his triad of truths. Addressing the son,—“You,” said he, “are the best harper I ever heard.” “True!” said the old woman. “And you,” said he to her, “are the ugliest hag I ever saw.” “True again!” said she. “If I were once from hence, I would never come hither again,” said he. The truth of this was allowed, and Arthur set free.

In this tale the description of the hag, her son, and daughter, corresponds with that of the Druidic deities,—*Ceridwen*, the prototype of witches, her son *Avagddu*, and her beautiful daughter *Fleur*, called in romance ‘Blanche Fleur’; as also Arthur’s imprisonment under the ox-hide, to that of the aspirants previous to their initiation into the mysteries. The tale, therefore, intimates that Arthur had been initiated, but conceived a disgust and hatred for the Druidical superstitions; which his mind was too well informed to regard, and too spirited to bear, as he could not have been wholly ignorant of Christianity.”

In this, then, we have the story and the superstitious signification of “the ugly hag of Nannerch,” to which your Welsh correspondent has by his Query attracted our attention.

G. T.

[1543] SIR THOMAS WILLIAMS, BART.

[No. 1817.—Sept. 22, 1880.]

Inquiry was made in THE SHEAF who SIR THOMAS WILLIAMS, Bart., could be, who was interred in one of the churches in Chester in 1630? It seems almost probable the one alluded to in the under-mentioned inscriptions may have been the elder son of the person named.

On a white marble Monument on the north side of the chancel of PLEMSTALL CHURCH, near Chester, are memorials of JOHN HURLESTON, of Piston, Esq., and ANNE WILBRAHAM, of Woodhey, his wife; also of their son and heir, JOHN HURLESTON, Esq., and MARY LEIGH, of Adlington, his wife. The Inscription thus continues:—

“Here also lie CHARLES HURLESTON, Esq. | their son and heir, and ANNE his wife, | daughter of Sir GEOFFREY SHAKERLEY, of Hulme, in this | county, Knight.

“Underneath also lie JOHN HURLESTON, | of Newton in Chester, Esq., son and heir of the | above mentioned CHARLES and ANNE, | who dyed the 12th Aug., 1720 | He left Issue by MARY his relict, | eldest daughter of SIR JOHN WILLIAMS | of Pengethly in the County of | Hereford, Knight and Baronet, four Daughters,—ANNE, MARY, PENELOPE, and ELIZABETH.”

MARY HURLESTON, *née* WILLIAMS, was mother of WILLIAM LECHE, my father-in-law, and was finally one of the co-heiresses of the now extinct family of the HURLESTONS of Piston.

Clifton.

ELIZ. ANTONIA LECHE.

MARCH 16, 1881.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- March 16.—Sir Richard Brooke commenced his public canvass for the Representation of Chester city 1810
- „ 19.—Taxall,—Faculty granted by Chancellor Raikes to take down and rebuild the Parish Church..... 1833
- „ 20.—Hooton Hall racing stables destroyed by fire: all the stud removed in safety, except the horse 'Denham,' and two fillies 1833
- „ 22.—Birkenhead Intermediate Dock publicly opened 1866
J. H.

Original Documents.**[1544] THE ROYALIST RENDEZVOUS AT KNUTSFORD.**

The Restoration of Charles II., though it was hailed with almost universal satisfaction by the nation, did not immediately bring about perfect security and peace. The spirit of anarchy and misrule had reigned rampant too long in the land to be immediately put down: and in the same way, the butchers, the cobblers, and the tailors, who had here, there, and everywhere, risen up and usurped the places of better men, could not all at once surrender the positions they had gained, or retire into the obscurity from which they had temporarily emerged. The serpent was soothed, not killed; and the consequence was, that the newly restored Government had to keep itself well on the alert, to prevent sudden surprise from the faction which had so long ridden roughshod over the people. The Militia and Light Horse of each county, under officers of proved loyalty, and of good report for prudence and bravery, were frequently called up for drill, at stated Rendezvous up and down the palatinates; and in this way the unruly spirits were overawed, and the law-abiding citizens enabled to pursue their avocations in peace.

One such Rendezvous of the local forces was, it seems, appointed for KNUTSFORD, in December, 1660; and thither, no doubt, a large body of men and officers were got together to exhibit themselves before the populace, and to practice the few military evolutions then thought necessary by the authorities. But, though the gathering was a large one, the absentees were not few; and we have here the Muster Master's Return of those county magnates, clergy, &c., who failed, by themselves or their substitutes, to put in an appearance at

the array. The Document is from the steeple OULTON PARK, and we owe it to the courtesy of Sir PHILIP BERTON, M.P., that we are able to present it to our readers:—

“A list of all those horse that are absent from the Randisouse att Knutsford, the 10th of Decem: 1660.

Earle Rinera, two men.....	ab.
Sir George Warburton, 1 man	ab.
Starkey of Stretton, & Starkey, Gent', and Mr. Jackson of the same town	ab.
Mr. Chomley of Holford	ab.
Mr. Harcott of Wincham, & Mr. Mouldsworth of the same, And Petter Venables of Lostock, Gent'	ab.
George Venables of Agden, Gent'	ab.
John Pickeringe of the Lodge, Esq'r, and Mr. Daniell of Dasbury	ab.
The Vicar of Bunkhorne, the Vicar of Budworth, And the Parson of Grapnall	ab.
Coll: Croxton of Rauenascrofte	ab.
Swettenam of Swettenam, Esq'r, for his lands there and att Bertles	ab.
The Parson of Danenham, Parson of Warmisham, the Parson of Brereton, Swettenham, Sandbich, and Vicar of Midlewich	ab.
Rich: Leigh of Lyme, Esq'r	ab.
Mr. Leigh of the Ridge	ab.
Henry Bradshaw of Marple, Gent'	ab.
Roger Wilbraham of Nampwich	ab.
George Vernon of Haslington, Esq'r	ab.
Alexander Walthall of Wisterson, Esq'r	ab.
The Parson of Bartomley, Vicar of Widdenbury, And the Parson of Minchell	ab.
Darcey Sanagh of Beoston, Esq'r.....	ab.
Starkey of Darley, Esq'r	ab.
Gilbert Garard of Crew'd, Esq'r, And Mr. Danice of Ashton	ab.
The Parsons of Tarperly, Vicar of ffradsum, Ince, Wiverham, New Church, Ouer, Bunbury, Taruin, & other Churches	ab.
The Parsons of Thornton, Barrow, And Plimton ..	ab.
Sir Richard Grosvenor, Barr'	ab.
Judge Puleston for Shooklach	ab.
Sir Orlando Bridgman, & who els hath Sir Thomas Brertons lands	ab.
The Lady Canely of the Ley.....	ab.
Dutton of Hatton, Esq'r.....	ab.
Canely of Saughton, and those that purchased Saughton	ab.
Mr. Massey of Cottington.....	ab.
Thomas Tannett of Broxson, Esq'r.....	ab.
Mr. Alport of Alport	ab.
Darcey Sanagh of Leighton, Esq'r.....	ab.
Edward Glegg of the Grang, Esq'r.....	ab.
William Stanley of Houlton [Hooton], Esq'r... ..	ab.
Edward Massey of Pndington, Esq'r.....	ab.
Poole of Poole, Esq'r.....	ab.
Henry Bunbury of Stany, Esq'r.....	ab.
William Steele, formerly Lord Chanc'ler, for his lands att Bydston.....	ab.
Richard Greene of Poulton, Esq'r.....	ab.”

There are names in this list that were not much in sympathy with the ruling powers, and whose absence therefore from the Muster is not surprising. But the great majority of the absentees were undoubtedly loyal, and it is difficult to account for their non-appearance, at a time when their presence in force was of such vital importance to the State.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[1545] NANTWICH PARISH REGISTERS.

These Registers are complete for 800 years. The words given below are on the first membrane, and are surrounded by very curious illuminations in excellent preservation. They would appear to have been done "p' Hugh Price."

"Anno Reg: Begin:
Elizabeth' 13.

A REGESTER OF THE PARISHE OF WICHE MALBANKE.

Beginninge the first Day of Jannarie in the
yeare of our Lord God on thousand, five
hunderd, seuenty & tow, at which
time ther was no Reister of the
said Wichmalbanke to be
founde

for the space of fourtine yeares befor, till one
William Warde was admitted Curatte
there, who in the day and yeare
aforesayed began the first
of This Regester
as followeth.

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• • • •
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Anno D'mn'e
1572."

Spring Hill.

B.

[1546] FITTON OF GAWSWORTH.

[Nos. 817, 907, 1524.]

Since writing No. 1524, as above, I by accident discovered that there was a mansion called "Gawsworth," at Carrigrohane, three or four miles distant from the City of Cork. Assuming that there should be something to connect it with your GAWSWORTH, near Macolesfield, I made a few enquiries thereon; which have resulted in the discovery that the Cork "Gawsworth" was built by a Barrister named RICHARD FITTON, a lineal descendant of the "*Ser Edwards fitton*" of the monument referred to by me in No. 1524, as still existing in St. PATRICK'S Cathedral in this city.

This is one of the many instances which I have met of families, originally from CHESHIRE, settling in the Co. of Cork; and, as there may be some of the readers of THE SHEAF to whom the result of my enquiry after the FITTONS may be of interest, I send this note for insertion, if you think it worth a corner.

The fourth son (and one of the nine) of "*SER EDWARDE FITTON*," and the second that had issue, was Alexr., afterwards Sir Alexander Fitton, Kt., of Knockany, in the Co. of Limerick. His second son was Alexander, who had a son, named Francis. Francis had a son Richard, who had a son William. These two last—Richard and William—resided in Cork. William's son was Richard Fitton, Barrister-at-Law, who resided on the South Mall in the City of Cork, and about the year 1804 built the Mansion called by him "*Gawsworth*," after the Cheshire seat of his progenitors. He had sons, who all died s.p. His daughter was married to Henry Pratt, captain in the 58th Regiment of Foot, fourth son of the Rev. James Pratt, of Owens Glebe, Co. Cork, whose son, Robert Pratt, Esq., J.P., is now the owner and occupier of "*Gawsworth*," in Carrigrohane, and from whom I have derived the greatest portion of my information.

He writes to say that the pedigree of the FITTONS, which he has, goes back to the 28rd HENRY I., A.D., 1182, with proofs and illustrations, which would take him a month to copy; but says, that "the first of the name who lived at GAWSWORTH, near Macolesfield, was one THOMAS FITTON, who was second son of Edmund Fitton of Bollin-fee, in Macolesfield Hundred, and who married Isabel, daughter of Thomas de Orreby, of Gawsworth, A.D. 1835."

Dublin.

W. MONK GIBBON.

Queries.

[1547] OVER GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Can any of your contributors kindly give me information relating to the old Grammar School of OVER, near Winsford, Cheshire,—when, and by whom, it was founded, and the names of the first Masters-appointed? Was there any Masonic Lodge connected with the School, or was there any Lodge belonging to the immediate neighbourhood, and who were the principal members in 1760 or thereabout?

AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

Eastnor Grove, Leamington.

[1548] ARMOUR IN CHESHIRE CHURCHES.

In the good old days of fighting for fighting's sake, and when Old England didn't take a licking quite so kindly as it does now, the memory of the brave was honoured by the armour they were being plac'd in the

principal church of their neighbourhood after their death.

Are there any specimens of ancient armour to be found in our Cheshire Churches now? If so, complete particulars of them, and notes of the valiant old wearers themselves, will be interesting. J. H.

[1549] HARGREAVE COW BORROWERS.

In my early days, when George III. was King, I was on a visit to a relative at HARGREAVE STUBBS, and used to have a chat now and then with old Peter Kirkham, a resident in that township, about the things he remembered when he was a boy. Some of which, had I written them down at the time, would certainly have been interesting, and might have been even useful, now. One thing he told me was that one of his ancestors used to hire a Cow annually from the Chapelwardens, as did many others in the township; but that all trace of the curious custom had been lost, save the hand-to-mouth tradition which he was then relating to me. Can you tell me any particulars of this Cow Club, for such in some sense it would seem to have been? SENEX.

Replies.

[1550] HOSPITALIERS OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM.

[No. 860, 1482, 1497.—Oct. 15, 1879, Jan. 26, Feb. 10, 1881.]

On June 14th, 1402, was drawn a Writ of Livery, reciting the finding of an Inquisition that, among other lands, Isabella, wife of Hugh de Wrotteslegh, died possessed of "one toft and five acres in TYRESFORD, held *in capite* of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, at 12d. yearly; yearly value 5s.

ROBERT DE LEGH died, 1408, possessed of one messuage and five acres of land in the same place at 12d. yearly, valued at six shillings annually. He also possessed "one messuage and twenty acres of land in Fulhagh [FULSHAW], for life of Cicely, late wife of John Scorgell, held in soccage."

One messuage and four acres of land were held in soccage in the same way by DAVID DOD, of Leighton, in CHURCH COPPENHALL. He died in 1410.

The Hermitage in CHURCH HULME is said to have been connected with the Priory of St. John.

HALTON, in 1666, contained two small cottages, in the possession of John Jackson and Richard Jennings, which were of the fee of St. John's. J. H.

[1551] THE IMAGE OF DARVALL-GADARN.

[No. 1502.—Feb. 17, 1881.]

"CAMBRO-BRITON" will find something about Dderfel Gadarn in Froude's *History of England*, Vol. iii., pp.

296-7, where it is stated that the Letter of "Visitor" Price was written to Thomas Lord Cromwell. Mr. Froude quotes "MS. Cotton, Cleopatra, E. 4" for the Letter. A very full account of the burning of Friar Forrest (including Price's letter) is given in *Arch. Camb.*, Vol. v., p. 152. Some relics of "Ceffyl Dervael," and the sword of the saint, still remain at LLANDERFEL, near Bala.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

DERFEL GADARN—or Dderfel the Mighty—is said to have been a famous warrior of the Sixth Century, who exchanged the sword for the pastoral staff. He was Patron Saint of LLANDDERFEL, Co. Merioneth, in the Diocese of St. Asaph. The writer of the letter you have published in *THE SHEAF* was one "Dr. Ellis Price;" and it was addressed to Cromwell, who had appointed him "Commissarie General of the Diocese of St. Asaph, for the expulsiinge and takyng awaye of certen abusions, supersticions, and ipooryses used within the saide diocese."

For an interesting account of this Parish and its Patron Saint, I refer you to the *History of the Diocese of St. Asaph*, by the Rev. D. R. Thomas, (pp. 71 and 697) who has also published Dr. Ellis Price's Letter to Cromwell. K.

[1552] THE BROSTER FAMILY.

[Vol. I., Nos. 5, 279, 332. Vol. II., No. 1033.]

A copy of *THE CHESHIRE SHEAF*, of the 17th Sept. last, was forwarded to me here by some friend, I suppose from having seen the name of RICHARD BROSTER quoted [No. 825] from the List of Mayors of the City of Chester, etc.

After reading your remarks thereon, I was induced to refer to my family pedigree, extracted from the records in the British Museum, I think in or about 1802; and also to my grandfather, Alderman PETER BROSTER's, manuscripts of the *History of Chester*, and of the *Vals Royal of Cheshire, Illustrated*, to see how far your statement might be correct.

I will respectfully submit a short extract from my family pedigree before mentioned, and from my Grandfather's MS. "PARENTALIA," comprising three thick volumes. John Broster, of Bosley, county of Chester, 2nd Hen. VIII.; Richard Broster, Sheriff of Chester 1503; Richard Broster, of Chester, 9th Hen. VIII. This Richard Broster, who, when Sheriff of Chester, 1591, signed his name BREWSTER, but, when he served the office of Mayor in 1633, signed BROSTER—by which latter name the younger branch of this family still call themselves,—had issue Richard, died s.p., Thomas, s.p., Edward, Henry, s.p. This third son EDWARD removed himself to Ireland, where his family have remained to the present time, and retain the *original* name, which is BREWSTER. With the late Right Hon. Abram Brewster, M.P., we, his cousins, were on most friendly and intimate terms.

Richard Broster, Mayor of Chester 1688, married 14th December, 1618, Jane, daughter of Thomas Wilcock; who bequeathed an estate in Willaston, Wirral, to the poor of St. John's, St. Bride's, Chester, and Neston.

Charles, the eldest son of RICHARD BROSTER, had many children; two of his sons were members of the Common Council of the City of Chester at the same time. He received as compensation for his services, and losses sustained, during the Civil War, twelve acres of the Battle Field, added to his estate at ROWTON MOOR, for ninety-nine years. CHARLES, a son of the above, married ELIZABETH LLOYD, daughter of William Lloyd, of Rhyddlan, county of Flint, Bishop of St. Asaph, one of the seven Bishops sent to the Tower. He had two sons, Thomas, who lived principally on the rent of his estate at Rowton; and Charles, who lived at Haughton Moss, in the Parish of Bunbury, and at an estate he owned at Henblas, near Newmarket, county of Flint. From this the youngest branch of the family, we are the direct descendants. For family arms, see "Randle Holme's *Armory*, 1688 (Book II., cap. 9, page 175, and Crest, the Antelope, No. 25, plate 171). I possess the original portrait of Bishop Lloyd, painted by Closterma, an artist who came from Hanover to London in 1681, and was of considerable reputation as a portrait painter.

I trust you will excuse my having given you so long an account of my family history; also for thus intruding myself on your time and patience. I am now in my 80th year: and old men generally are given to be rather lengthy when writing their own history. Some of your older readers will no doubt recollect me as living at Brook Lodge, Flookersbrook, with my uncle JOHN BROSTER, F.A.S.E., Single Alderman of the City, &c., who left Chester and resided at Sandown, Isle of Wight, where he died, aged 84, about a quarter of a century ago. Southampton. WILLIAM BROSTER.

[The author of this Reply, which was delayed in transmission, has, we believe, recently died at the age of four-score. EDITOR.]

[1558] WITTHENSHAW BELL.

[Nos. 1480, 1500.—Jan. 26, Feb. 10.]

Although Mr. TATTON has politely furnished us with a short Reply to this Query, I venture to think the following fuller particulars, extracted from an article "On Bells, and the Inscriptions upon some of them," by DR. KENDRICK, of Warrington, will be acceptable to readers of these columns. The author thus discourses on the Bell in question:—

"The Bell at WITTHENSHAW Hall, the seat of Mr. TATTON, near NORTHENDEN, in Cheshire, has a history which should be told. When the war first broke out between the King and the Parliament, it was a curious feature of the war that many sieges of private houses took place; and of one of these, WITTHENSHAW was the scene.

In February, 1643, Colonel DUKINFIELD, the head of a neighbouring house, and an officer of the Parliament, with a force under his command, sat down before Mr. Tatton's house, and began a regular siege against it. In the house with the owner there were a few gentlemen, and a small number of soldiers, with only a limited supply of ammunition. The besiegers found the little garrison very stout-hearted, and but for the two pieces of heavy ordnance which they sent for and brought up from Manchester, they might have beaten a retreat.

One of their officers, Captain Adams, was killed on the 25th of February by a bullet said to have been fired by one of the maid-servants of the house, and his burial is recorded in the Stookport register. No fewer than six of the other soldiers, who fell under the fire of the garrison, found graves near the house, and were laid side by side where they fell. When however the heavy ordnance came up, the garrison capitulated; and as the victors, it would seem, loved noisy trophies, they carried off with other plunder Mr. TATTON's drum, and his hall bell! The latter remained with Colonel DUKINFIELD's successors until the 20th October, 1807, when Sir HENRY DUKINFIELD, their then representative, gracefully restored this prize of war to the then representative of WITTHENSHAW Hall, in which house it now hangs; and so a trophy snatched in a time of civil war was restored in a time of domestic peace, after a lapse of more than a century and a half. The inscription on this Bell is,—'Gloria in Excelsis Deo.'"

There are one or two points of divergence noticeable in this Reply, if we compare it with Mr. TATTON's at No. 1500, and which some little further enquiry will no doubt set right. T. HUGHES.

MARCH 23, 1881.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- March 24.—Scaffolding erected for taking down the spire of Holy Trinity Church, Chester 1811
- " 25.—Faculty granted by the Chancellor of Chester Diocese to erect a Beer-house (*sic*) in Prestbury Churchyard 1729
- " 26.—Sir William Brereton defeats the Earl of Northampton's forces near Stafford 1643
- " 27.—St. John's Church, Chester, styled in a legal document "the Church of the Holy Cross and St. John" 1311
- " 28.—Hawarden Church, Flintshire, sacrilegiously entered, and the silver Communion Service stolen therefrom 1836
- " 29.—The fine Ocean-liner S. S. "City of Chester," 458 feet in length, one of the 'Inman' line of steamships, launched at Greenock 1873

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1554] DENBIGHSHIRE FUNERAL PROCESSIONS.

A correspondent has placed in my hands for publication the two Funeral Certificates given below, which have been recently copied from the Originals preserved amongst the Holme MSS. in the British Museum.

The first to be recited is that of JOHN JEFFREYS, esquire, of ACTON, near Wrexham, grandfather of Sir GEORGE JEFFREYS (Lord Jeffreys), the notorious Chief Justice whose name is still a byword among the people.

There is a shield of arms,—Jeffreys, quartering 6 coats,—attached to the Document, which, as also the Certificate, were the handiwork of RANDLE HOLME, senior, of Chester. The record itself runs thus:—

“JOHN JEFFREYS, OF ACTON.

JOHN JEFFREYS, of Acton, in the County of Denbigh, Esq'r., one of the Judges of Northwales, Departed this mortall life at Acton the xixth day of may, 1622, and was buried in wrixsome church in the County aforesaide.

He maryed margrett, Daughter to william Lloyd, of Halghton, in the County of Flint, esq'r, by whom he had yssue—

John Jeffreys, his sonne and heyre, now of the age of xiiij years or thereabouts at the tyme of his father's Decease.

Edward Jeffreys, second sonne to the Defunct. Charles, 3 sonne; and margrett Jeffreys, Daughter to the Defunct.

This Certificate was taken at Acton the xxiijth day of May, 1622, by Randle Holme, Deputy for the office of Armes, and testified vnder the hands of margret, late wife to the Defunct, and John Edwards, of Stanstey, in the County of Denbigh, gent', Executors to the saide Defunct.”

I see that Le Neve, in his *Pedigrees of the Knights*, makes this JOHN JEFFREYS the husband of Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Ireland, of Bewsey, near Warrington. But this Certificate of HOLME's was contemporary evidence, whereas Le Neve wrote 70 years afterwards,—I apprehend, therefore, that the above record is the correct one.

The next Document, also in all probability Randle Holme's composition, has at its head the following Arms:—“Quarterly of 9,—1st, sable, three roses argent,”—and is in these terms:—

“THO'S POWELL, OF HORSLEY, CO. DEN', ESQ'.

THOMAS POWELL, of Horsley, in the County of Denbigh, esq'r, departed this mortall life at Horsley, vpon the xvijth day of September, 1629, and was Interred in St maryes church, in the city of Chester.

he married Dorethy, daughter to morris Gwyn of Gwyder, in the County of Carnarvon, esq'r; by whom he had issue—

S'r Thomas Powell of Birket, in the county of Chester, baronett, now of the age of . . . years or thereabout at the death of his father; who married Kathrine, daughter to S'r John Egerton of oulton, in the County of Chester, k't; by whom he hath yssue—

Thomas Powell, his sonne and heyre, of the age of . . . years, w'ch dyed in February, 1617, without yssue.

John Powell, 2nd sonne, & now heyre, of S'r Thomas, married . . . , dau. and ooh. to Edward Puleston of Alington, in the County of Denbigh, esq'r, but yet hath noe yssue.

John Powell, second sonne to the Defunct.

Roger, 3rd sonne.

Richard, 4th sonne.

Elinor, eldest daughter to the Defunct.

Margret, 2d daughter.

Kathrine, 3d dau.

Sidney Powell, youngest dau.”

The two extracts now to be given from the Burial Registers of the Church of St. MARY's-on-the-Hill at CHESTER will aptly illustrate the foregoing Document, and are the only entries in the Register relating to the POWELLS, of Birket (Birkenhead) and Horsley:—

“Thomas Powell, Esq', bur. 25 Sept', 1629.”

“Dame Katherine Powell, wife of S'r Thomas Powell, Barron't, buried in St. Katherine's Ile, vnd'r Mr. Worsleys stone, 12th Sep', 1639.”

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1555] ANONYMOUS SERMON AT CHESTER, 1690, WITH HENRY DODWELL'S COMMENTS, 1702.

Some of your readers may probably be able to identify the preacher of the discourse at CHESTER about to be described, and to explain where and when it was preached in that city. The Sermon is found in a book entitled thus:—

“Concerning Marriages in Different Communions; in a Sermon at Chester. Prosecuted by Henry Dodwell, M.A., sometime Fellow of Trinity College, near Dublin. London, Printed by W. B. for Char. Brome, at the Gun at the West End of St. Paul's, and Geo. Strahan, at the Golden Ball against the Royal Exchange, 1702. 8vo., xij, 63, 254.”

The text is *Ecce* x. 4. We are informed by the author of the preface, who is also the preacher of the Sermon, that the latter was delivered, twelve years ago, at CHESTER;

“In which, and the neighbouring County, it is more common than elsewhere in England to match with Dissenters, at least of one sort, from our Church. And crosses the Water in Ireland, the Examples are many of English Families who, by Marrying with the Natives, have lost their Nation as well as Religion, and are turn'd mere Irishmen, as well as Papists.”

He adds, that before he adventured to commit the discourse to the Press, he sent it to "the most learned and judicious Mr. *Dodwell*; who return'd the following *Letter*, with his Leave to make it publick, and to go along with this," i.e., with this Sermon. Neither the preface nor sermon supply any ready means of identifying the author's name. At a first glance it might be taken to be the sermon of Dodwell (as Mr. Rodd has taken it, in the *Byrom Catalogue*, p. 71); but Dodwell was not an ordained person; and the title-page states that he only *prosecuted* the subject. Dodwell's *Letter* begins after p. 68, and is signed "Your old and most sincere friend, Henry Dodwell."

At p. 50 the preacher alludes to the marriage of Charles I. and Henrietta of France.

"We cannot forget (it), because we feel it still, and tremble at the consequences it may yet have upon us."

He alludes to falsehoods about the Queen, "cast upon her by a sort of party-coloured *Saints*, who had *God* in their *Mouth*, the *Devil* in their *Heart*, and the *World* in both their *Arms*. And took that Handle to wound the King through her Sides."

The comment on the Sermon, or the amplification of it, enters deeply into Jewish and other historic lore.

Dodwell was one of the most remarkable men of his time. He was educated at York and the University of Dublin, elected Professor of Ancient History in Oxford, when M.A., 2 April, 1688; and filled that chair until 1691, when his opinions as a non-juror disqualified him. He wrote an *Invitation to Gentlemen to acquaint themselves with Ancient History*, 1698. He was a very ingenious and learned man, and his character has been extolled by Anthony à Wood and Hearne. The latter relates an instance of his integrity, which I will transcribe, not only on account of the simplicity of disposition which it illustrates, but also because it introduces a gentleman of CHESTER, Mr. HENRY PRESCOT, a local official, who assisted Bishop Gastrell in the compilation of the *Notitia Cestriensis*, and who wrote an addition to the modest epitaph which Dr. SHERLOCK placed over his place of sepulture in WINWICK Church.

"20 Sept., 1711. Mr. Prescott, register of Chester, with whom I dined at Christ Church in his son's chamber [perhaps John Prescott, of Christ Church, B.A., 1712, M.A. 1715], two or three days ago, tells me that Mr. Dodwell, when a young man, was a very severe student, and wholly sequestered himself from the world. That when Fellow, and in possession of his estate, he kept himself so close that he seldom went out; that the person that rented his estate and managed it for him, used to bring him money, papers, &c., just as he pleased, keeping Mr. Dodwell in ignorance about the true and just value of the estate; and that Mr. Dodwell acquiesced in what he alleged, without troubling himself to examine particulars, or to question his veracity. Some time after, it seems, a certain friend of Mr.

Dodwell's acquaints him that the manager of his affairs did him great injustice, the Estate being of a far greater value than he accounted for it to Mr. Dodwell. This being made clear to Mr. Dodwell, he replyd, *Then I must leave my fellowship. My Estate is more than a livelihood, and I cannot in conscience keep a fellowship for which I have no want, from one that is poor, and upon that account ought to have it.* Accordingly he did quit his fellowship, and afterwards lived upon his estate. This, Mr. Prescott says, (and he added, 'tis what few besides knew,) is the true reason of Mr. Dodwell's resigning his fellowship. So Mr. Prescott; but I am fully satisfied that the most momentous was his avoyding holy orders." (*Reliquias Hearnianae*, i. 235.)

Stretford, Manchester.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

Queries.

[1556]

LIVERY OF THE STAG.

In the *Appendix to 86th Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records*, I find:—

"1397. Aug. 24. Writ to William Bagot, the Undersheriff of the County of Chester, to proclaim that all the knights and esquires of the Livery of the Stag should assemble armed at Kingston-upon-Thames, on the Saturday morning next before the Feast of St. Lambert, to ride with the King towards London."

When was this Order created; and what was the qualification necessary to hold it? Why were the members of it to accompany the king towards London?

J. H.

[1557]

SUTTON GREEN.

I have extracted the following from the *Chester Chronicle* of Feb. 28th, 1800:—

"THE LAND OWNERS within the township of SUTTON, in the pariah of HOLT, and county of Denbigh, are desired to meet at the Red Lion Inn, in WREXHAM, on Monday, the third day of March next, at eleven o'clock; to take into consideration the propriety of inclosing the Common or Waste Ground within the said township, called SUTTON GREEN, and the proposals that will be then made for that purpose.

Feb. 18th, 1800."

Is there any record of the decision arrived at by the landowners at the above meeting? I fancy it must have been a negative one, as the "Green" at the present time still remains unenclosed common land, and the geese, pigs, and donkeys belonging to the cottagers graze and roam at large thereon as of yore.

Wrexham.

LANDWOR.

Replies.

[1558] "THE CROWN AND SCEPTER," NANTWICH.

[No. 459.—Jan. 8, 1879.]

This hostelry, which is mentioned in "Mr. Richard Goldsmith's Advertisement of 1738," is still in existence, and maintains a good position. It has, however, been robbed of its "scepter," and is always referred to as "the Crown." The building is almost opposite the Church, in High-street, and must have presented a far different sight then from what it now does; for then could be seen the half-timber work of the house, which is now covered up by plaster coloured yellow. Under this cloak lies the front, which, if restored to its original condition, would perhaps turn out one of the best pieces of framing in the town. The moulded and projecting beams are, however, uncovered, and shew out very well against the flat and uninteresting coat of yellow.

I cannot tell how long the building has been standing, but it is almost certain that it is of later date than the great Fire, which occurred in 1583.

As for the 'posting' and horses mentioned, I am informed that the mails stopped at the *Crown* until the railway between Crewe and Warrington was opened.

J. H.

[1559] SIR THOMAS WILLIAMS, BART.

[Nos. 1817, 1543.—Sept. 22, 1880; March 9, 1881.]

I think it will be found that the Sir Thomas Williams, Bart.—"whose son Robert was buried at St. Oswald's, Chester, on the 15th of April, 1630"—was Sir THOMAS WILLIAMS, of Vaenol, in Carnarvonshire, whose baronetcy, created in the person of his father, Sir William Williams, in 1622, became extinct in 1695. The last baronet of this house left his estates by Will, dated June 25, 1695 (subject to an annuity of £540 to Charles Allanson, Esq.), to Sir Bourghier Wrey for life, with two other remainders, and then to King William III. in fee. The King granted his interests under the Will to John Smith, Esq., Speaker of the House of Commons; by whose descendant, G. W. D. ASHINGTON SMITH, Esq., the property is now enjoyed.

"Sir John Williams, of Pengethley, in the county of Hereford, Knight and Baronet," was the son of Sir Thomas Williams, Bart., M.D., of Eltham, in Kent. He was physician to Charles II., who made him a baronet in 1674. His son, Sir John, acquired Pengethley by his marriage with Mary, only daughter and heiress of Sir William Powell, Bart., of Pengethley; by whom, according to the published pedigree, he had only two daughters—Susanna, married to Henry Cornwall, Esq., of Bredwardine, in Herefordshire; and Penelope, married to Thomas Symonds, Esq., of Sugwas, in the same county. But, according to the HUELSTON Monu-

ment in PLERMSTALL Church, there appears to have been a third, Mary, wife of JOHN HUELSTON, Esq. Kinmel Park. H. R. HUGHES.

[1560] THE POWER OF THE IMAGINATION.

[No. 1516.—Feb. 23.]

The Well referred to is no doubt FFYNNON ELIAN, which was utterly destroyed a few years ago by the rector of the parish in which it was situated. I saw the place a few months ago, and only a puddle remained. Mr. ASKEW ROBERTS, in his *Gossiping Guide to Wales* (describing the Chester and Holyhead Railway ride) says, when approaching COLWYN:—

"To our left just here lies the village which holds a once famous Well—Ffynnon Elian; and which seems to have been every whit as great a curse as ever St. Winifred was a blessing to Welsh humanity. The tales told of this Well have filled one and would fill twenty volumes. In days gone by, we have ourselves met with people who not only believed in the Well, but also believed that they had been 'put into it.' The process was a simple one. If you had a spite against a neighbour, all you had to do was to go to the custodian of the Well, pay a fee, have your enemy's name written on paper (through which a pin was stuck) and thrown into the Well; and he would be 'cursed' until he managed to get himself out. In 1818, at the Flintshire Great Sessions, a man was sent to gaol for twelve months for obtaining money under false pretences, having taken a fee to 'pull out of the Well' a poor wretch who thought himself in its accursed waters."

The book goes on to describe the walk from Colwyn to the spot, and the present state of the site.

NEMO.

This custom was firmly believed in by the lower classes in Wales. When a boy, I have frequently heard some one say, "I'll put you in FFYNNON ELIAN!" I was told that the name of the person was written upon a piece of slate, or a stone, and thrown into the Well, and as the ban was removed the name disappeared. A fee was exacted, I fancy, in proportion to the fear of the individual.

I knew of one instance,—a man named Lewis Jarvis quarreled with his sweetheart, and she put him in "FFYNNON ELIAN," which so worked upon him, that he became a mere shadow of his former self. He made several journeys to the Well, and paid a fee each time. I believe he ultimately married the woman, and was *effectually cured*! PUGH, in his *Cambria Depicta*, pp. 19-20, describes a Well endowed with the same power at LLAN ELIAN,—probably the same place.

Wrexham.

LANDWOR.

[1561] THE COACHMAN'S LEAP.

[No. 1481, 1533.—Jan. 26, March 2.]

The Old Bridge at OVERTON was so narrow that two carts could not pass on it, and so low that, when the river was swollen, a man could dip his hand into the

water from the top of it. It had on each side a low wooden rail we called the battlement. The approach on each side was down a steep hill. On the Denbighshire side, the turn of the road at the end of the Bridge formed a sharp angle. I once saw the leaders of the stage coach, in making the turn, run with their fore legs over the rail; and I have heard old people say they could remember the coach, horses, passengers, and all fall over into the river, but I cannot say if anyone was drowned. I have also heard from the same parties that during a great flood the Mill a little higher up the river, being at the time a low thatched building, was washed down by the "fresh,"—and that the roof floated down the river, and, striking one of the arches of the Bridge, destroyed it. I remember the man who rebuilt it—he was very old when I first knew him,—his name was Nehemiah Pugh.

About that time, I think it was, a cart drawn by three horses was going up the hill on the OVERTON side, when a large serpent, supposed to have escaped from a travelling collection of wild animals, rushed through the garden hedge of Mr. CLAY, and sprang at the leading horse! The wheel passed over him; and the driver fought him with the cromtree of the cart and killed him. He was lifted on to the load of coals and taken to OVERTON, his head hanging over the front of the cart, and his tail reaching the ground behind!

I well remember the building of the present Bridge, but cannot quite give you the year in which it was commenced. Certainly it was before the battle of Waterloo. It was intended to have been of one arch, but when several courses of stones had been laid on each side, the supports gave way and the whole fell into the river. The original plan was then given up, and the present Bridge of two arches was built. The builder's name was PENSON, grandfather or father of the late Mr. T. M. PENSON, of Chester. T. PRITCHARD.

The following advertisement, culled from the *Chester Courant* of the day, shews pretty conclusively that the Bridge at OVERTON was rebuilt some time in the year 1818:—

"OVERTON BRIDGE.

A Meeting of the Committee for building Overton Bridge will be holden at the Bridge, on Tuesday, the 28th inst., at 12 o'clock.

THOMAS PENSON, Architect.

At which time and place, a Meeting of the Committee and Subscribers towards the expense of erecting the Jubilee building, upon the summit of Moel Famna, will be held for the purpose of adopting measures for immediately carrying that work into execution.

Wrexham, July 18, 1812."

King George the Third's JUBILEE TOWER and OVERTON BRIDGE were thus, it would seem, in process of erection at the same time: for the latter, Mr. Penson was both architect and builder, but he was contractor only for the Moel Famna Memorial.

T. HUGHES.

[1662] THE GERARDS OF CHESHIRE.

[Nos. 1876, 1588.—Nov. 10, 1880, March 9, 1881.]

RICHARD GERARD, rector of Stockport, co. Cest. bachelor of divinity, obit 1614, was the second son of William Gerard, of Harrow, co. Middlesex, by his wife, daughter of Page of Sudbury Court, co. Middlesex. He married Ursula, daughter of Ralph Arderne, of Harden, co. Cest., and had one son, THOMAS GERARD, of Riddings, in Bowdon, aged 59, in 1664. He (the latter) was married three times—1st, to Beatrice, daughter of Sir Robert Hide, of Norbury; 2nd, to Catherine, daughter of Sir Richard Brooke, of Norton, by whom he had one daughter; 3rd, to Townsend, daughter of Edward Domville, of Lymme.

RICHARD GERARD had also two daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret.

Ledsham.

R. M.

MARCH 30, 1881.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

March 30.—Overleigh Lodge, at the Chester entrance of the Avenue to Eaton Hall, opened	1837
" 31.—S. Y. Benyon, Esq., Q.C., Recorder of Chester city, and Vice Chancellor of the County Palatine of Lancaster, died	1822
April 1.—George Cotes, Master of Balliol College, and a Prebendary of Chester Cathedral, consecrated Bishop of Chester	1554
" 2.—Reginald Heber, Bishop of Calcutta, a native of Malpas, died suddenly at Trinobinopoly, India	1826
" 4.—The Cheshire Militia called out for active duty, and assembled at Chester Castle	1803
" 5.—The Rev. John Wesley preached in the Octagon Chapel, Chester	1790
	J. H.

Original Documents.

[1663] THE DUKE OF ORMONDE'S LIFE GUARDS, 1662.

SIR PETER LEYCESTER, in his List of the "Lord Lieutenants and Deputies of Ireland," given in the 3rd Chapter of his *Historical Antiquities*, 1672, records as follows, under date—

"1682. King Charles the Second being restored to his Kingdoms, makes James Butler (now Duke of Ormond) Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, who landed in Ireland 28 die Julii, eodem Anno, 1682."

The King allotted to his favourite and trusty councillor Ormonde a body guard of picked troops, who were mustered at Chester preparatory to passing over to the sister country with its newly appointed Lord Lieutenant. It is to this circumstance mainly that the following Letter refers,—the writer being Mrs. Mary Billingsley, a married daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Sandford, of Sandford, in the adjoining County of Salop. It is in many ways a chatty and interesting family Letter, and well deserves a place in *THE SHEAF* :—

"Deare Mother,

Although Mr. Billingsley is the bearer of this letter, I know not wheather hee may haue the liberty to present it himselffe, by reason his ocations is no farther then CHESTER, there to receaue his company; and so for Ireland againe w't the first wind. his company is part of the xii hundred men, which are apoynted for the Duke [of] Ormons life guard &c.

Mr. Billingsley had a desire my brother Arthur should haue bin his lieutenant or Insine; but in prosecuting the busines hee finds no commander has liberty to chuse his officers. So that he rests content to continue under the command of the Lord Kingston, to home hee intends to repaire so sounne as my Cosin Denham shall think him fit to vnder-take so long a forny, it being aboue threescore miles from Dublin. My Cosins care has bin very great towards him, so that I coneeane it may doe well, if yow are pleased, to returne him a word or tow of thanks for his great seavility to vs all.

I may not forget the tender care my deere had of my brother during the time of his weakness. I am bound to saye it could not haue bin greater had hee bin his owne brother; blessed bee our god, that still continues his great merceys to vs, and, as I trust, has restored my brother's health, to his great glory, and our great comforts, for that mee thinks I see hee is become a new man. as for the state of his body, I soppose hee has given you an account vnder his owne hand, in this inclosed; w't which you will also receaue a letter from my Sister Mace; which as I presume will giue yow information of all there well beings.

Time would not permit our sounne, frank and Need, to present yow there dutys vnder there owne hands, and therefore beg I will doe it for them: the same I was desired to doe in the behalfe of the other three, which yet are not able to doe it for them selves.

I humbly beseech you will be pleased to present my searvice, Love, and best respects to all our freinds as you see them; especially to my good freind. your sarvant Dorothy Rowe, home I was hearttyley glad to heere was come to searue yow againe.

Just now, Mr. Billingsley going for England is stayed, so that I must find out another conveyance, for the presenting yow these letters, w't the humble duty of, my deere Mother,

Your most obedyent

Dutyfull Daughter to command,

MARY BILLINGSLEY.

From Thomascourt

May the vi, 1682.

Be pleased to let us haue the hapiness as to heere from you vpon all ocations, w'ch will bee dayley, from Chester, by soulders; and among ye rest, I thinke my Cosin. Charles Billingsley, will wait on yow, if oportuntie will giue him leave."

Addressed outside,

"for her deare and Ever Honored Mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Sandford, widow at Sandford, or elswhere, these present, with my most humble Duty in

Shropshire, England."

This Letter comes, like many others that have preceded it in these columns, from the collection of Thomas H. Sandford, Esq., of Sandford Hall, Salop.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[1564] FOUR CHILDREN AT ONE BIRTH.

The Parish Register of ST. MARY'S on the Hill at CHESTER contains the following curious record, which, it may be fairly presumed, is without a parallel in that or any other Chester parish during the last three centuries :—

"Margaret, Elizabeth, Ellen, and Alice, infants borne to John Owen, taylor, by Elizabeth his wife, att one birth, and baptized the 29th day of March, 1640."

"foure infants of John Owens, buried in one Coffin in the south Churchyard before the south porch, 30th of March, 1640."

A *lusus naturæ* truly, and an awful example "to persons about to marry"! This "John Owen, taylor," must have mistaken his vocation, for in his case it is evident the oft-quoted proverb, that "it requires nine tailors, &c.," did not apply.

T. HUGHES.

[1565] PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION OF CHESTER, COUNTY AND CITY.

(Continued from No. 1537.)

1 Charles I. (1625).

Summoned to meet at Westminster, 17 May, 1625.

Dissolved 12 August, 1625.

EDWARD WHITBY, Esq., Recorder of Chester.
JOHN SAVAGE, Esq.

Browne Willis, in *Not. Parl.* says "First Parliament began June 21, 1625, anno regni I., and held to July 11, when it adjourned to Oxford, Aug. 1, and sat to Aug. 12, and was then dissolved."

EDWARD WHITBY, Esq.,—See Parliament, 12 James I., 1614.

JOHN SAVAGE, Esq.,—See Parliament, 21 James I., 1623-4.

1 Charles I. (1625-6).

Summoned to meet at Westminster, 6 February, 1625-6.

Dissolved 15 June, 1628.

EDWARD WHITBY, Esq., Recorder.

WILLIAM GAMULL, Esq.

Browne Willis, *Ormerod*, and *Hemingway* all give as the second member, WILLIAM SAMUEL, Esq., which is most probably through an error in reading the name; as, considering the close and intimate connection the Gamull family had held for some time with the citizens of Chester, it may safely be concluded that the authority of the Blue Book is the correct one.

EDWARD WHITBY, Esq.,—See Parliament, 12 James I., 1614.

WILLIAM GAMULL, Esq., of Crabwall, was the second son of Edmund Gamull, of Buerton, and brother of Thomas Gamull, Recorder, and formerly Representative of Chester, before mentioned. He was Sheriff of the city in 1602, during the mayoralty of Hugh Glasior (a former representative in Parliament), and Mayor in 1608 and 1620. He married, first, Eleanor, daughter of William Cotgreave, of Chester, from whom are descended the Crabwall Gamulls; and, secondly, Frances Grosvenor, daughter and co-heiress of Anthony Grosvenor, of Dodleston (a younger son of Richard Grosvenor, of Eaton), by his wife Juliana, daughter of Sir Richard Puleston, of Emral.

3 Charles I. (1627-8).

Summoned to meet at Westminster, 17 March, 1627-8.

Dissolved March 10, 1628-9.

EDWARD WHITBY, Esq., Recorder.

JOHN RATCLIFFE, Alderman.

Browne Willis, in *Not. Parl.* says this Parliament commenced March 16th, 1628, and was dissolved March 20, 1629.

EDWARD WHITBY, Esq.,—See Parliament, 12 James I., 1614.

JOHN RATCLIFFE, Alderman.—See Parliament, 18 James I., 1620-1.

16 Charles I. (1640).

Summoned to meet at Westminster, 13 April, 1640.

Dissolved 5th May, 1640.

Sir THOMAS SMITH, Bart., Alderman of Chester.

ROBERT BRERWOOD, Recorder and Alderman of Chester.

Date of Election, 23 March, 1639-40.

The above is as given in the Blue Book, but the other authorities give Sir Thomas Smith, *Knt.* and Robert Brerwood, *Knt.*; except that *Browne Willis* calls the latter an *Esq.*, which alone he was at that date.

Sir THOMAS SMITH, *Knt.*, (for such is the most probable description, as in the next Parliament, which occurs this year, the Blue Book gives Sir Thomas Smith, *Knt.*, and also, it must be remembered that the baronetcy was not conferred until the 16th of August, 1660), was son of Lawrence Smith, by his wife Anne, daughter of Sir Randle Mainwaring, of Over Peover. He was son and heir of Sir Thomas Smith, of Hatherton, *Knt.*, Mayor of Chester in 1596, and great grandson of Sir Lawrence Smith, *Knt.*, formerly Member of Parliament for the county and the city. He was Mayor of the city in 1622-3, and Sheriff of the county in 1623, being the only person I know of who has ever held the two high dignities at the same time. He married Mary, daughter of Sir Hugh Smith, near Bristol, by whom he had 23 children, one being Sir Thomas Smith, Bart. He was living in 1666.

ROBERT BRERWOOD, Recorder, was son of John Brerewood, Sheriff of the city 1598; whose father, a rich glover, had, after serving as Sheriff in 1566, been elected to fill the civic chair on three occasions, viz., in 1583, 1587, and 1600. In this latter period he died, and was succeeded for the remainder of his term of office by Richard Bavand, formerly one of the Representatives of the city in Parliament.

This ROBERT BRERWOOD was serjeant-at-law, a judge of the Common Pleas, and was knighted at Oxford in 1643. *Ormerod* and *Hemingway*, therefore, are both incorrect in their list of Members. The Recorder, who was also Clerk of the Pentice or Town Clerk of Chester, was twice married; first to Anne, daughter of Sir Randle Mainwaring, of Over Peover, the younger, as above stated; and, secondly, to Katherine, daughter of Sir Richard Lea, of Lea and Dernhall. He died September 8, 1654, aged 67, and was buried at St. Mary's Church, Chester.

Sir Robert Brerewood was one of the six commissioners who declined to sign the conditions for the surrender of the city to Sir Wm. Brereton, and amongst the number removed from their various posts for their loyalty.

Ledsham.

R. M.

Queries.

[1566] WELSH SUPERSTITIONS.

One of the Relieving Officers of the Wrexham Union informed me some time ago of a peculiar custom of the Welsh colliers at RHOSLLANERCHREUGOG, the inhabitants of which locality are emphatically "a peculiar people."

Should they meet, upon going to their work early in the morning, any girls or women fetching water, they take it from them, pour it upon the ground, and break

the vessels. They consider it very unlucky to meet with such, and think that some misfortune will happen to themselves unless they break the jugs and spill the water!

Have any of your readers ever heard of a similar custom elsewhere?

Wrexham.

LANDWOR.

[1567] NIXON, THE CHESHIRE PROPHET.

I have not seen in *THE SHEAF* anything about this Cheshire celebrity, except a few casual lines in pages 4 and 348 of the 1st Vol., although I have been on the look out for some notice of him. In my early days I owned a small 18mo in a paper covering, containing about 80 or 100 pages, with a likeness, and giving a short account of his life, followed by his prophecies; which afforded me many an hour's amusement whilst I endeavoured to reconcile *happened* events with his prophetic visions. Sixty years ago his prophecies were well known in the Hundred of Wirral; one in particular, that about "the peace and safety" to be found in "God's Croft," but not elsewhere; the people of that Hundred always asserting that the "God's Croft" of the Prophet was only their own Hundred of Wirral.

I regret I have not my little 18mo to refer to. What became of it I know not; but the subject was brought to my recollection by meeting, a few days ago, with a well engraved portrait in the third vol. of the *Anthologia Hibernica*, the number for January, 1794, representing a young person, with a large head, curly and wavy hair, large eyes, and a fat round face, with a silly expression. "S. Harding, del." "O. Heneoy, scul."

Underneath—

"ROBERT NIXON,
The Cheshire Prophet,
From an original picture in the possession of
Owen Salisbury Brereton, Esq."

The text is "An account of ROBERT NIXON, the Cheshire Prophet," and states, amongst other matters, that

"He was a mere idiot, employed by neighbouring farmers, followed the plough all day, and afforded them merriment at night. He was a short, squab fellow, with a great head, and goggle eyes."

After giving some account of his life and of his being starved to death in the King's Palace, it goes on—

"Subjoined is the account the present owner of the painting, from which the print of our Nixon was engraved, has been pleased to give of the accident that put it into his possession."

"Being on a visit to Mr. CHOLMONDLEY, of Vale Royal, in Cheshire, and caught in a shower of rain on horseback about a mile before I got there, I went into a cottage near the road; and stepping on a piece of canvas at the door, I thought it *particular* there: so taking it in my hand, I found on the side next the ground the face I sent you; which, being so odd a one, I asked some account of it, to which

the woman of the cottage answered, 'Lord! it is our Nixon's head, which was thrown out of the Hall house the other day, and I brought it home.' From her I purchased it."

Can any of the readers of *THE SHEAF* inform me what has become of the Portrait? Did it ever take safe passage again from Ireland (from the proprietors of the *Anthologia Hibernica*) to its owner, Mr. Salisbury Brereton? And, if extant, in whose possession it may be now?

Dublin.

W. MONK GIBSON.

Replies.

[1568] WILLIAM THROPP, BOOKSELLER IN
CHESTER, 1658.

[Nos. 626, 648, 651, 668.—April 23, May 7, 21, 1879.]

In looking through our local Records this day, I came upon the following payment, in the Mayoralty of William Moreton.

"1663-4. P'd Mr. Throp, of Chester, May 16th, for a book of Common Prayer, 9s. 61."

As I have no doubt it refers to the WILLIAM THROPP mentioned in Query 626, in *THE CHESHIRE SHEAF* of April, 1879, I thought it might interest your readers to record this further trace of, perhaps, your earliest Chester Printer.

Congleton.

T. G. SHELDON.

[1569] MALPAS OLD FONT.

[No. 670.—May 21, 1879.]

In the following extract I think I have found the reason why ST. CHAD'S, SHERKESBURY, was preferred to *St. Chad's, Tushingham*, to have the old Font from MALPAS:—

"In the centre of the Church (St. Chad's) is a large font of grey marble, purchased from the Parish of Malpas, in Cheshire, in 1842. Its original cost was £80, and derives peculiar interest from being the one at which the late Bishop Heber was christened.—HENRY PIDGEON's *Memorials of Shrewsbury*."

Having found the year in which it was removed, it will be very easy, on reference to the Parish Accounts, to ascertain what the Malpas folk considered the value of it to be in 1842.

To what age does this Font belong? Naming the original cost would point to its being only modern: for who can tell the cost of the old examples that were in existence long before cost had any voice in the matter?

J. H.

[1570] WITHERNSHAW BELL.

[Nos. 1490, 1500, 1533.—Jan. 25, Feb. 10, March 16.]

The passage quoted by Mr. HUGHES, at No. 1553, from an article on Local "Bells," is not from Dr.

KENDRICK's, but a less able pen. I recollect the late Mr. LEGH, of Lyme, uncle of the present worthy possessor, telling me the story of his being present when SIR HENRY DUKINFIELD promised the late Mr. TATTON to restore his Bell, which had been so long before abstracted.

Orford Hall.

W. BEAMONT.

[1571] SIR JOHN SAVAGE. KT.

[No. 1537.—March 9.]

From the mention by "R. M." of a Sir JOHN SAVAGE, living temp. Hen. VIII., I was reminded of a curious Pedigree, which I copied some years ago from the original MS. volume of John Booth's *Cheshire Pedigrees*. This Book was lent to me by his descendant, the late Mr. Booth, of Twenlow. As I am not aware of this Pedigree being in print, I send the following copy for THE SHEAF:—

"Sr John Savage, Knight of ye Garter, and of ye Privie Council, was slayne at Bullen, when King Henry ye 8 lay siege thereto.

1. Sr John Savage, Kt., who had given him in recompens for the death of his Father, the Earle of Warwicke's lands in Worcestersh, and was thereby Sheriffe of Worcestersh by inheritance.

Sr John Savage, Knight, who slew a Gent called Mr. Panstouke, and dyed prison' in ye Tower for ye same act.

Sr John Savage that now is lyving, and may dispend £1,500 by yere by his revenues.

2. George Savage [illegitimate son], priest parson of Davenham, in co. Cest., begott there 7 bastards by sundry women, and was himself bastard sonne of Sr John Savage, Knight of ye Garter.

|||||

George Savage, Priest Chancelor of Chester.

Elisabeth, m'ied to Claiton, of Thelwall, begotten of Wynslow's Daughter.

Ellen, mar. to Harvey, of Little, begotten on one Dyes D.

Edmund Bonner, who was first Deane of Leicester, and after twice bishop of London, begotten of one Elis. Froddesham, w'oh Elis. was after m'ied to one Edmund Bonier, (a sawyer, w'th Mr. Armyngham), who begott other children after of her, and dwelled at Potters Hanley, in Worcestersh.

John Winslow, Archdeacon of Middlesex, gotten on one Wynslow's Daughter.

Rondle Savage, of ye Lodge, begotten of the D. of one Dyes, of Barrow, in Chester.

M'g't, Widd' to Colsenstoke, begotten of one Dyes' Daughter."

Tushingham Hall.

B. LL. VAWDREY.

[1572] THE BROSTER FAMILY.

[No. 1552.—March 16.]

The late W. BROSTER writes—"Some of your older readers will no doubt recollect me as living at Brook Lodge, FLOCKERSBROOK, with my uncle JOHN BROSTER, &c."

I am one of those older readers who recollect, not William himself, but his uncle JOHN. I perfectly remember his leaving Brook Lodge, and removing to Sandown, in the Isle of Wight.

He professed to be able to cure stammering; and I well recollect BISHOP SUMNER and CHANCELLOR RAIKES, both of whom had a hesitation in their speech, going to the Isle of Wight for the purpose of being treated by BROSTER. When they returned they professed to have been benefited by it, but, as far as I can recollect, their hearers never found it out.

He called his house in the Isle of Wight "Chester Lodge," in compliment to his native city.

Kinmel.

H. B. HUGHES.

APRIL 6, 1881.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- April 8.—Stoak, Cheshire—Faculty granted by Chancellor Parkinson to take down old Church Tower, and rebuild it of stone... 1836
- " 9.—John Egerton, Esq. (afterwards Sir John Grey-Egerton, Bart., M.P.), the head of the Independent or Egerton Party at Chester, married, at Backford Church, Maria, daughter of Thomas Scott Jackson, Esq. 1795
- " 10.—Manor of Lea, entailed on Robert Knolles, nephew of Sir Hugh Calveley 1854

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1573] CHESTER FUNERAL PROCESSIONS.

I send you herewith the particulars of a Funeral Procession, which I have transcribed from the original by Randle Holmes, preserved in Harl. MS. No. 2129. You will probably deem it to be of sufficient local interest to merit insertion in THE SHEAF; and if you have anything to add editorially thereon, so much the better. It is one of a series I propose from time to time to send to you from the same source:—

Mrs. THROPP.

"Order of funeral of Mrs. Elinor, wife to Mr. Tho. Thropp, Ald[erman], buried at St. Michells, August, 1639.

the helman
the poore 2 & 2
hurn house, & Mr. Andertons man
Randle Mynahull, Tymothy Golborne
the preacher
the Corps, carried by Aldermen
Mary Thropp, & Mrs. frances Gamul
Mr. Will'm Gamula wife & his sons wife
Mrs. Whitby, Mr. francis Gamul wife
Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Coney
Jane Wynsale, Maudlain Shortlike
Mr. Tho. Thropp, Mr. Wm. Gamul
Mr. Tho. Thropp, jun., Mr. Wm. Throp
Mr. francis Gamul, & Mr. Wm. Gamul, jun'r
Mr. Anderton, Mr. Evans
Mr. Evans sonne, Mr. Wyrden
gent. & kindred not in black
the maior & ald'rm'
etc."

J. PAUL RYLANDS.

Thelwall, Warrington.

In accordance with Mr. RYLANDS' suggestion, we append a few remarks on the interesting record he has sent to us.

Mr. THOMAS THROPP was the Chorister and King's Scholar of Chester Cathedral, who made a Greek and Latin Oration to Bishop MORETON on his first coming to his diocese and palace in 1615, the year in which THOMAS THROPP, the elder, his father, was Mayor of the city. The son had been previously married, as appears by the two following extracts from the Parish Registers of St. Oswald's, Chester:—

"Thomas Throppe, the sonne of Thomas Throppe, Bapt's 16 April, 1626."

"Elizabeth Throppe, the wife of Thomas Throppe, sep'ta 27 of June, 1628."

The future Alderman and active Royalist however remained not long disconsolate; for within a year he found another congenial helpmate, and mother for his young child, in a member of a distinguished local family. In the Register Book for the Parish of St. John the Baptist at Chester, we find as follows:—

"Mr. Thomas Throppe and Elinor Gamul married June 11, 1627."

Here then we are introduced to the lady whose burial was marshalled as above, twelve years afterwards, by Randle Holme. She was the elder daughter of WILLIAM GAMULL of Chester and of Crabwall, by Elinor, daughter of William Cotgreve, also of this city; but her marriage with Throppe has not, so far as we are aware, been previously noted in any of the Gamull pedigrees in print. The husband was thus first cousin, by marriage, to SIR FRANCIS GAMULL, knight, the distinguished royalist whose name is so imperishably bound up, as indeed is Thropp's also, with CHESTER

during the Civil War. The future knight, it will be seen, was one of the mourners at the funeral, as were also his wife Christians, daughter of Richard Grosvenor, Esq., of Eaton Boat, which lady herself died in June of the following year. The lady who walked by her side was Alice Whitby, her aunt, the wife successively of a doctor of divinity, and of two Recorders of Chester, viz., Thomas Gamull (father of Sir Francis) and Edward Whitby. The presence of her father, mother, brother, and other relatives at the grave is thus naturally accounted for.

The "preacher" was no doubt Mr. JOHN CONEY, the Lecturer at the Cathedral, and Vicar of St Oswald's from 1634 to 1612; whose name was omitted from the List of Vicars in the 1st, but included by Mr. Helsby in the second, edition of OMMEROD's *Cheshire*. In the year of his coming to Chester, Mr. Coney lost his first wife; for in St. Oswald's Registers we read that

"Mrs. Doritie Conie, wife to Mr. John Conie, lectturer, was buried the 19th of Januarie, 1634."

The Vicar remained for two years a widower, and then, on the anniversary of his first wife's burial, placed this entry in the Register Book of his parish:—

"Mr. John Conie and Mrs. Alice Eaton were married the 19 of Januarie, 1636."

This is the "Mrs. Coney" who walked in the procession side by side with Mrs. Evans, but we have not as yet identified the last named lady. Two more extracts from the St. Oswald's Registers, viz.:—

"Mrs. Alice Conie, wife to Mr. John Conie, lecturer, and Vicker of this p'ish, buried the 8th of Aprile, 1641,"

"Mr. John Conie, Lecturer, and Vicker of S'n Oswalds, buried the first of November, 1642."

shall bring this supplementary article to a close for this week. In our next we shall have a few additional words to say upon this grave subject. EDITOR.

Notes.

[1574] THE "KING GEORGE" PACKET.

In the "Diary" to THE SHEAF for 8th Sept., 1880, occurs the following record:—

"14th Sept. The 'King George' Packet lost off Hoylake, at the mouth of the Dee, and 165 passengers drowned, 1806."

Having heard the circumstances of this deplorable event from many persons, who were resident at the time at PARKGATE, or were connected with the management of the packets, and which have been re-called to my memory by the above note in the "Diary," I am enabled to present to the readers of THE SHEAF a short account thereof, which may not be unacceptable.

This vessel, which was one of the regular packets between Dublin and Parkgate, and commanded (so I believe) at the time by Joseph Grumley, had been detained for several days at Parkgate by contrary winds; and a great number of passengers had arrived, waiting for an opportunity of crossing over to Dublin. The principal hotel, the *Mostyn Arms*, was full of highly respectable persons who had taken their passage on board the "King George." At that time it was kept by Spencer, who afterwards was the proprietor of the *Royal Hotel*, at Holyhead, and the house is now the school of the Rev. A. S. Grenfell. Just opposite this house there was then deep water, where the *Royal Yacht* and the packets lay.

If the date in the "Diary" be correct, the day of embarkation would be Sunday, and the time between eleven and noon. The highest spring tide having occurred on the 12th, the wind fair and nearly calm, the day almost a summer's day, and the PARKGATE season not being over, numbers of persons on the shore witnessed the embarkation. The vessel left her moorings on the ebb tide, with every prospect of a favourable voyage.

Near HILBRE Island, at the mouth of the Dee, the vessel took the ground on the Cheshire side of the Channel, and was soon, as the sailors say, "high and dry;" and as nothing could be done but wait for the next flood tide, most of the passengers descended from the vessel, and passed a great part of the day walking and running on the sand-bank, and were distinctly seen through the glasses of the visitors and inhabitants of PARKGATE.

Towards nightfall there was a great change in the weather, the wind coming from the west, and setting in to blow hard with the incoming tide. Sometime before high water, which would be about midnight, and before the vessel floated, the wind had increased to a perfect gale, and the sea ran very high. The vessel, instead of floating, heeled over towards the Channel, and every sea that struck her drove her higher on the banks, where she soon went to pieces, and every soul on board perished but one man, who belonged to the crew.

It may be asked how in a night of raging waves and storm this one only man was saved? It was thus:—A small vessel bound to NESTON Colliery was coming up the river; the Captain and crew, hearing the cries of the passengers, and hoping to rescue one or more, let fly as many of the ropes of their small vessel as they dared, and swept as close to where the cries came from as they could. The night being dark, and it being impossible for any small boat to live in the high sea—the man rescued caught one of the flying ropes, by means of which he reached the deck of the small vessel, and so was saved. It was always alleged by the Parkgate sailors and fishermen that this man had a "caul";—confirming strongly the "sailor's superstition" in the efficacy of the same.

Next morning numerous bodies were floated up the river, many of them to HOYLAKE. The officer in command of the Government vessel then stationed there often spoke to me about the loss of the "King George;" and said that, on the morning following that sad event, he and his men had picked up 23 bodies, and laid them out in the boat-house on shore. At first he did not know what Packet had been lost, but on going to the bow of his vessel about flood tide to inspect his cable, he saw a man (drowned) hooked on by one of his legs across the cable; and he immediately recognised him as one of the crew of the "King George," who had a contracted leg, stiffened at the knee joint, and by means of which he was hooked on.

It was always said by this officer, as well as by others connected with shipping, that the "King George" was altogether unfitted for a packet between Dublin and Parkgate, being too sharp, and what sailors call very "crank," and a vessel that could not take the ground with any degree of safety.

Dublin.

W. MONK GIBSON.

Queries.

[1576] ROODEYS CROSS, CHESTER.

Can any reader direct me to a drawing old enough to shew the complete state of this Cross? I should also be glad to know the date of it, and when it is first mentioned in any official records.

I am not anxious to hear the traditions, but the facts, of this interesting relic.
J. H.

[1576] THE CHESTER AND HOLYHEAD RAILWAY.

In what year, and by what engineer, was this Line first projected; and does its present course depart in any important degree from the scheme originally proposed? It is said that one of our early poets was the first to suggest the possibility of so rapidly bridging the distance between Chester and Ireland,—is this so, and can any one give me the precise words of the seer?

CAMBRO-BRITON.

[1577] ST. WERBURGH'S ABBEY LIBRARY, CHESTER.

Is it known at all what became of the monastic Library once stored up within the walls of our Chester ABBEY OF ST. WERBURGH? It cannot be doubted that a religious house of the standing this venerable Abbey for centuries enjoyed, must have possessed manuscript and printed works of priceless value,—but where are they all, or any of them, now? I believe I am right in saying that the present Chapter Library does not contain a single volume known to have ever belonged to the monastic collection.

J. WILKINS, B.A.

[1578] CHESTER FAIR.

What was the origin of the Glove, hung out on St. Peter's Church Tower, during the time of the Fair in July and October?

Newton.

H.

[1579] THE GREAT OAK IN DUNHAM PARK.

My profession leads me to take special interest in trees, as many of my Queries, &c., submitted to THE SHEAF from time to time, will have sufficiently testified. In pursuance of this hobby, I wish now to inquire about a monarch Oak which, early in the present century, dignified the Park of DUNHAM MASSEY, the residence now of the public-spirited and generous Robert Platt, Esq. What is known of this giant tree? I fear it may have, ere this, become a simple matter of history, but I should like to know.

A WOODMAN.

[1580] COWPER'S BROXTON MSS. & "PARENTALIA."

In *Notes and Queries*, a year or two ago, appeared the following:—"Is there any printed copy extant of Dr. WILLIAM COWPER'S (of Overleigh) Broxton MSS. and his *Parentalia*, describing the Siege of Chester in 1641, and containing Chester city pedigree?"

I should like the enquiry to go a step further, and would now ask the whereabouts of these MSS., and if they are accessible?

J. H.

Replies.

[1581] [No. 225.—Aug. 28, 1878]

MARRIAGE AT THE HIGH CROSS, CHESTER.

I know not if you will think this worth entering in the columns of THE SHEAF:—

The marriage of John Hurleston and Mary Leigh of Adlington is alluded to in THE SHEAF, as above. There is a curious old picture at CARDEN representing them in the act of being married at "THE CROSS OF CHESTER," their hands clasped, the lady wearing her wedding ring on her thumb. Inscribed above them is the following:

"We praise the Holy Trinitie,
For this our blessed Unitie."

I was told the marriage took place at The Cross of CHESTER, which may possibly be incorrect.

Clifton.

ELIZ. A. LECHER.

[1582] FITTON OF GAWSWORTH.

[Nos. 817, 907, 1524, 1546.—Sept. 10, Nov. 19, 1879, March 2, 16, 1881.]

The inscription in St. Patrick's Cathedral agrees very well with that given by *Ormerod*, where also their descent is given under BOLLIN and GAWSWORTH. In

the account of the latter place it will be seen (in 2nd edition) that Lieut. FITTON, male representative of the Irish branch of the family, became interested in the monuments at GAWSWORTH during the destructive "restoration" there some 30 years ago. Sir PHILIP EGERTON has a copy of a letter (in his old *Ormerod*), written by Mr. Twopeny, of London, barrister-at-law, to Lieut. Fitton on the subject. It is dated July, 1855. Were all the males of the Carrigrohane branch extinct at that time?

Southport.

T. H.

[1583] BURT, THE PORTRAIT PAINTER.

[Nos. 1204, 1215, 1446.—June 30, July 7, Dec. 29, 1880.]

Mr. BURT, the celebrated portrait and miniature painter, came to CHESTER from BATH towards the close of 1812, and opened a Studio and Exhibition Room in that very picturesque house which stood exactly on the site of the present new street adjoining the offices of Messrs. Potts and Roberts, Northgate-street. The house was at the time the shop and residence of Mr. HUNTER, the engraver, and a Verger of the Cathedral, from whom the adjoining "Hunter's Walk" leading to Princess Street, was named.

A circular before me gives the cost at which these really artistic portraits, which have made many of our Chester celebrities of the last two generations so familiar to our eyes, were supplied by Mr. BURT. He says in his advertisement—

"Mr. BURT, from the facility that extensive practice has given to his pencil, can take the LIKENESS in half-an-hour, and afford the COLOURED PROFILES, at Ten Shillings and Sixpence each."

G. T.

[1584] NOTES ON PRINTING AT CHESTER.

[No. 1010.—Feb. 4, 1880.]

So far as tradition can be trusted in such matters, it has never been doubted by local antiquaries that RANDLE HOLME'S ponderous folio, *The Academy of Armory*, 1688, was printed at Chester, and under the author's own eye, if not indeed in part by his own hand.

A literary friend has lately presented me with a copy of

"*Bibliotheca Llyodiana: A Catalogue of the entire Library, near 10,000 Volumes, from the Presses of Caxton, Wynkyn de Worde, Pynson, &c., &c., late the property of JOHN LLOYD, Esq., LL.D., late M.P. for the County of Flint; to be sold by auction at his seat at WYGFARNE, near St. Asaph, on January 15th, 1816, & twelve following days, by Mr. BROTHER, of CHESTER.*"

It is an extremely interesting Catalogue, the examples of early printing, by the fathers of the art in this country and the continent, appearing on page after page

therein in the most delicious profusion. The prices they fetched, too, make one almost regret one was born just a generation too late to have had a finger in that precious literary pie! Mr. Lloyd must have been both an intelligent and industrious author.

No. 1878 in the *Catalogue* is the "*Store House of Armoury and Blazon*, by *Randle Holme*," the volume Mr. ALLNUTT enquires about; and to this Lot the auctioneer, Mr. John Broster,—using, I have no doubt, information acquired from his old father, Alderman Peter Broster, the Cheshire Antiquary,—appends the following note:—

"This might perhaps be considered the first book ever printed in Chester: not at a public office, but at the private house of an individual, as the title shows; and at the expence of the principal gentlemen in *North Wales* and *Cheshire*, to some of whom each plate and chapter is dedicated. Thus, by the author's account, 1100 pages were waded through with great labour and expence. The MS. Collections of the three Randle Holmes's, father, son, and grandson, were bought first by the great Earl of Oxford, and afterwards by the Trustees of the British Museum; &c."

Mr. ALLNUTT considers the Book too well printed to have been actually the production of a Chester press; but that is a libel on our literary pride which no Cestrian can willingly accept without better evidence. To my eye, the volume has a distinctly provincial smack about it, both as to plates and typography; and I have evidence in my own collection that there were printers settled in Chester several years prior to the production of that quaint old farrago, the *Academy of Armoury*.

T. HUGHES.

[1585] THE BROSTER FAMILY.

[Nos. 1552, 1572.—March 16, 30.]

As myself one of the older readers of THE SHEAF, I may mention that I well remember the elder BROSTER having the reputation of ouring stammering, and of which a notable and amusing instance was currently talked of at the time. I fancy it has never before appeared in print.

There were then living in the county a gallant Captain and a well-known Squire—the latter has been immortalized in verse by WARBURTON as a retailer of "news (in the hunting-field) from a neighbouring shire." Both were confirmed stammerers; and meeting on one occasion, the latter making a painful attempt to communicate some intelligence, was kindly interrupted by the former with the advice—"You sh—sh—should g—g—go to BROSTER, he has one—oue—oued me!"

B. LL. VAWDREY.

Tushingham Hall.

APRIL 13, 1881.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- | | |
|--|------|
| April 13.—The King's picture (Charles II.) and those of Justice and Prudence, in the Common Hall at Chester, ordered by the Corporation to be paid for | 1683 |
| " 14.—Mr. Cooke, the tragedian, gave his Readings from <i>Milton</i> , &c., in the Theatre Royal, preceded by a Lecture on Oratory | 1794 |
| " 15.—John Brownsword, surnamed Grammaticus, died at Macclesfield..... | 1539 |
| " 16.—Tushingham-cum-Grindley,—part of the Milking Bank conveyed by Daniel Vawdrey of Tushingham Hall, for £100, as a site for the New Church.... | 1622 |
| " 17.—General Assembly of Quakers held in the Linenhall Field (now Stanley-place), Chester | 1779 |
| " 19.—Samuel Peploe, Warden of Manchester, installed Bishop of Chester, by Prebendaries Thane and Fogg..... | 1716 |
- J. H.

Original Documents.

[1586] STREET SWEEPING AT CHESTER.

This is a subject which in the present day occupies, and very properly so, the serious attention of our City Council. From the ratepayer's point of view, and that is one our municipal representatives are bound always to consult, it requires the exercise of great vigilance and forethought, and no end of adroit management, if the work is to be done satisfactorily all round, and yet at a moderate cost.

It may be some comfort to our present race of legislators, and some encouragement to them to persevere in their efforts to combine efficiency with economy, to learn that their predecessors in office have had the same battle to fight in the interests of the old city. I will show them to-day how they managed to clean the streets of Chester in the reign of James the First, 275 years ago, when some such system as that recently re-established for removing street rubbish was started by our Stuart ancestors.

An Assemblies holden in the Common hall of pless within the Citie of Chester, upon frydaye the Eleventh daie of July, 1606, Annoq' Regni Domini n'ri Jacobi dei gra' regis nunc Anglie frauncie et hib'nie quarto, et Scocie Tricesimo Nono, before John Iytlor, Maior of the same Citie.

"A Scavenger to be appointed, and provision for his Wages.

ALSO at the same Assembly it is ordered that some p'son fitt for the purpose shalbe admitted and allowed to be Scavenger in the said Citie, to carry, Convey, take and bringe away all dunnges, mucke, and other filthe and duste oute of the streetes and lanes of the said Citie: the same to be firste swepte and gathered together, and laid on heapes before eu'y mans doore, howse, and shoppe, by the owner of eu'y such howse and shoppe or his Servautes; and that eu'y howshowlder in the flower principal streetes of the said Citie, and in pepper-streete, ffishmongers lane, St. John's lane, St. Werburge lane, Whitefrere lane, blackfrere lane, Castle lane, and Cowlane, shall trulie paie and Satisfie vnto the same Scavenger yearlie iijjd. for such his labor and paine. And that eu'y howshowlder in eu'y other lane and place of the said Citie shall yearlie paie and satisfie to the said Scavenger ijd. for Carryinge away of their said dunng and filth.

none to sweep or throw durt in the Chenell.

And it is further ordered that noe such howshowlder in the said Citie shall cause or Suffer the Dunng and filth before his howse or shopp or anie parte thereof to be swepte or throwen, by anie of his Servautes or familie, into anie the channels of the said Citie, to the obstupation and stoppings of the same. And that eu'y p'son offendings in the p'misses, or in not payng the said yearlie stipend or wages by him due by force of this order, shall forfeite to the use of this incorporation iijjd. for eu'y tyme w'thout mitigation to be leuied; and shall alsoe sufferr imprisonment for his contempte, soe longe as the Maior and the Aldermen his brethren shall thinke fitt."

T. HUGHES.

[1587] MRS. ELEANOR THROPP'S FUNERAL.

[No. 1573.—April 6.]

Pursuant to our promise of last week, we return to this subject to-day. And first we will give an extract from the Parish Registers of St. Olave's, to the following effect:—

"Thomas Thropp & Elizabeth Chaloner married, Sep. 16, 1624."

The License for this marriage was obtained on the same morning from the Bishop's Office, as appears by the following record, which occurs in the Marriage Act Book:—

"Thomas Throppe, and Elizabeth Challoner of Chester, spinster, licensed to be married by Mr. Gorst, clerk, 16 Sepr., 1624."

Mr. Roger Gorst, who married them, was Incumbent of St. Olave's, along with St. Michael's, from 1618 to and until after 1640.

Mrs. Throppe, who died in the second year of her married life, was the daughter of Thomas Chaloner, the old herald painter and antiquary, to whom the elder Randle Holme was apprenticed, and whose widow he afterwards married.

Turning again now to the Order of Procession, as printed in last week's SHEAF, we are confronted first of all with an ancient CHESTER custom, which survived far into the 18th century, viz., the attendance of the City Bellman at the head of most funerals celebrated at Chester. In the earliest Assembly Book of our Corporation the following items are recorded, under the year 1540, as being of old time

"THE FFRES AND P'FETTS BELONGING TO YE BELMAN.

Imp'mis, of eu'y worahipfull gentylman	
that geuyth anye gownes at ther buryall . . . one gowne	
It'm of eu'y worahipfull p'son that geuyth	
no gownes, then he to hane forgoinge w'th	
the bell	iiijd.
It'm of eu'y pore man y't he goyth for	
w'th his bell	jd.
It'm whe' he goyth for anye thinge that	
is Loste	jd.
It'm for euerye bote Lode wyth powder	
mellwylle [green fish powdered with salt]	
that he goithe for	one ffy. he
It'm for eu'y bonte lade' w't freshe fryshe	
yt he goith for	jd.
It'm of ye preste obbyts in ye yere	ijs. viijd.

It is a pity that this last entry is so imperfect in the original; but we gather from it that when the obits of benefactors were annually proclaimed in the city churches of CHESTER, the Bellman was officially present; and, it may be, himself proclaimed the list of persons for whom the faithful were to pray. This going at the head of funeral processions was, it is believed, also a relic of a pre-Reformation custom,—that of ringing a bell by an acolyte in front of the corpse as it was carried to the grave.

In 1584, Richard Bexwycke, chaplain in the parish church of Middleton, Lancashire, leaves by his will to six priests whom he names:—

"Vnto eu'y on of theym xvjd. to say dirige masses and to praye for my soule. Vnto Thomas Lee, ye clerke, to ryng and pray for my sowle"

The Rev. Dudley Garenieres, of Waverton, and Prebendary of Chester, making his Will in 1701, desires that there be

"Notice given by the Clerk to the Parishioners of Hanley and Waverton, and by the Belman to the People of Chester, of the time when, and the place where, my Corpes is to be buried,"

and seeing that the "Blew Coat Boys" and others are to proceed with his body to the burial, no doubt "the belman" also was there with his bell.

Returning to the Funeral Procession of MRS. THROPP, as marshalled by Randle Holme, we find that the poor of the parish also attended; and these had a small dole in money, and probably too the broken victuals remaining from the burial feast. In more important funerals, the poor had gowns presented to them, bearing the cognizance of the deceased, thus

adding much of "pomp and circumstance" to the procession.

After "the preacher" came "the corpses, carried by Aldermen," which means probably that they bore the pall; for their usually advanced age, to say nothing of their social status, would preclude their actually carrying the body. The custom, however, of doing this last menial office for the deceased by their personal friends, still survives in certain parts of the country, the West of England for example, where we ourselves, thirty years ago and upwards, assisted in bearing an old friend to his last home.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[1588] PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION OF CHESTER, CITY AND COUNTY.

(Continued from No. 1565.)

16 Charles I. (1640).

The Long Parliament.

Summoned to meet at Westminster, 3 November, 1640. On 30 January, 1648-9, Charles the First was beheaded, and the Commonwealth commenced; but this Parliament continued sitting until it was expelled by Cromwell, 28 April, 1653.

SIR THOMAS SMITH, Knt., Alderman of Chester.

FRANCIS GAMULL, Esq., Alderman of Chester.

To this follows without date [but really in 1646],

WILLIAM EDWARDS, Esq., Alderman of Chester.

JOHN RATCLIFFE, Esq., Recorder and Alderman of Chester,
vice

Sir Thomas Smith, Knt., and

Francis Gamull, Esq.,
disabled to sit.

Date of Election, 14 December, 1646.

In reference to this Parliament, *Browne Willis*, in his *Notitia Parliamentaria*, writes:—

"Fifth and Last Parliament, Anno 16 Charles I., 1640.

This fifth and last Parliament began at Westminster, anno regni 16, and continued sitting till April 20, 1653, when it was dissolved. But notwithstanding this Dissolution, and the summoning no less than Four Parliaments by the Usurping Powers, this Parliament seems to have been look'd upon as such still, for in the *Commons Journal*, vol. viii., p. 880, is this entry:—

'March 16, 1659. A Bill for the Dissolution of the Parliament began at Westminster Nov. 3, 1640, and for calling another Parliament April 25, 1660.'

SIR THOMAS SMITH, Bart.—See Parliament 15 Charles I., 1640.

FRANCIS GAMULL, Esq., (written SAMUEL by mistake in writ) was the only surviving child of Thomas Gamull of Buerton, Recorder of Chester, and M.P. for the city in 1601. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Randle Mainwaring, of Over Peover, who died in Chester on the 13th August, 1661, and was buried at Hawarden. He was one of the staunchest Royalists in the city; and it was at his house in Lower Bridge-street that King Charles stayed when, from the leads of the Phoenix Tower, he, in company with the subject of our memoir and others, witnessed the defeat of his forces on Rowton Moor; after which he, Captain Thropp, and Alderman Thomas Cowper, attended the King to Denbigh. Sir Francis was also one of the six Commissioners who dissented from the treaty by which the city capitulated to the Parliamentarians; and it is a remarkable fact that four out of the six—Sir F. Gamull, Thomas Cowper, Sir Robert Brerewood, and Charles Walley—were at different periods representatives of the city in Parliament. He was Mayor in 1634, but his name does not appear in the list of Sheriffs.

On account of his loyalty, he was dispossessed of Buerton Hall, and the annexed estate: his family nevertheless were permitted to inherit, pursuant to an existing entail; but his Life Interest was put up to sale and purchased, in 1653, by William Plymley of Norton, Shropshire. The purchaser did not enjoy it long, for Sir Francis died the following year, when the inheritance devolved to his daughters, his only son having died without issue. In 1646, an attempt was made to do away with the Causeway and Dee Mills, which was intended as a covert attack upon the Gamull family, then the owners. This blow was aimed at Sir Francis in an "Ordinance of the Lords and Commissioners in Parliament for putting all the loyal citizens from their offices, and putting others in their places; for pulling up the Causeway through the River Dee, and for pulling down the Dee Milnes belonging to Mr. Francis Gamull, and building other mills upon the Rood dee; and for applying yearly £515 out of the revenue of the Dean and Chapter to some of their clergy and schoolmasters there." The first portion of this Ordinance was carried out; for he was deprived of, and removed from, the various offices and the public position he held in the city. Sir Francis is stated to have been created a baronet, but his name does not appear amongst the patents.

WILLIAM EDWARDS, Esq., after the removal on account of loyalty of all persons who had taken the king's part, was made Mayor, and Mr. John Ratcliffe, Recorder; and both them were made Burgesses, their election taking place 14th December, 1646. He (Edwards) was Sheriff of the City in 1627, and Mayor also in 1636. During his last year of Mayoralty, Chester was again visited by the Plague, when the grass grew at the High Cross and other thoroughfares of the city.

JOHN RATCLIFFE, Esq., was a son of Alderman John Ratcliffe, who was Sheriff in 1601, the year of his father's mayoralty, and who himself filled the civic chair in 1628, and represented the City in Parliament 1620-1 and 1627-8. The subject of this notice was appointed Recorder by the Parliamentarians, but was removed in 1651; when Mr. Richard Haworth, a Manchester lawyer, was appointed, but he resigned his office because he would not reside constantly in Chester. Upon this Mr. Ratcliffe was again chosen in 1656, and once more deprived of the office, by the Commissioners for regulating the Corporations of the City and County Palatine of Chester, in 1662, because he refused to take the oath enjoined by Act of Parliament in that behalf. In 1659, he had been deputed by Bradshaw, who was then ill in London, to act as Deputy Judge at the Easter Assizes.

He must have been an energetic representative for the good and welfare of his constituents, seeing that in 1666,

"Thirty Pounds were presented to Mr. Ratcliffe, the Member of Parliament, as a free gift and token of thankfulness for his great care and pains about the publique good of this cittie."

And in 1673, on Dec. 12, it was carried at a Common Council Meeting, that—

"The sum of £250 be granted to the children of the late John Ratcliffe, Esq., the Member, hee beinge in his lyfetime a usefull and profitable servant to the cittie, and in the service thereof had spent a great part of his tyme and estate, and by reason thereof was enforced to contract several considerable debts."

Ledsham.

R. M.

Queries.

[1589] COLONEL ROGER WHITLEY.

Can any readers of THE SHEAF give information about Colonel ROGER WHITLEY, of Peel, co. Chester? His daughter married Sir JOHN MAINWARING, of Peover; and, from books now at PROVER Hall, Colonel Roger Whitley seems to have been at the head of the General Post Office in 1672 and immediately following years.

E.

[1590] THE TWITCH-HOOKS, FARNDON.

There is a road in the parish of FARNDON, that bears the above very uncommon name. Is it possible to trace the origin of the appellation? I take it for granted that it is a title of some antiquity, and that thereby, in some shape or other, hangs a tale.

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[1591] EATON (BY TARPORLEY) CROSS.

I last week passed through this village, on my road from Beeston Castle Station to attend the funeral of the late much-lamented Sir PHILIP GREY-EGERTON, bart., in Little Budworth Churchyard.

On a mound at the entrance to the village, and approached by a series of stone steps, I noticed a good-sized tree growing; but I should imagine from its position that it must be usurping the site of one of those Village Crosses, more common in the south-west than in the north-west of England. What is known of this mass of masonry, now adorning the little hamlet of EATON?

M. O. Y.

[1592] JOHN DUTTON, OF BURLAND HALL.

He died a few (perhaps three) years ago, at the above Hall, near Nantwich, where his sister, a spinster, now resides; and he was said to be able to trace his descent, in a direct line, from the DUTTONS of Dutton.

Can any reader show his connection with the original stock of this Cheshire family?

J. H.

Replies.

[1593] BOLESWORTH CASTLE, A POEM.

[No. 1177.—June 9, 1880.]

MR. THOMAS TOWNSHEND, the author of the above anonymous Poem, was a native of this locality, being the fifth son of John Townshend, of Hem, co. Denbigh, Esq., by Frances Lee, of Darnhall, in this county.

MR. T. TOWNSHEND, who was born August 25, 1738, was trained for the law, and was of the Society of Gray's Inn, but I am not aware whether he ever practised at the bar. Early in life he married Anne, sole daughter and heiress of George Mainwaring, of Bromborough, co. Chester, Esq., who died issueless on August 2, 1774. Three years after this event, he published the little poem entitled *Bolesworth Castle*, which forms the basis of Mr. J. P. EARWAKER's Query, as above.

MR. TOWNSHEND married secondly, Sept. 14, 1784, Mary, daughter of Henry Hesketh, Esq., of Newton-by-Chester, who died Sept. 21, 1801, aged 56. Five years before this, he had published a little volume under the title of "POEMS, by Thomas Townshend, Esq., of Gray's Inn. London: Printed by T. Bensley, for E. and S. Harding, Pall Mall, 1796." This is a small 8vo. of 112 pp., very beautifully printed, and illustrated by Stothard, with head and tail pieces after the manner of Samuel Rogers' *Italy*.

For twenty-one years Mr. Townshend remained a widower, residing sometimes at Wilbrighton Hall, co. Stafford, but mostly at his house in the Abbey

Court, Chester; where he died May 27, 1822, aged 84, and was buried at St. Olave's Church, in which a monument was erected to him and his two wives, by neither of whom, however, did he leave issue.

H. S. A.

[1594] ANONYMOUS SERMON AT CHESTER,
1690, WITH HENRY DODWELL'S COMMENTS, 1702.

[No. 1555.—March 23.]

A well-known bibliographer, Mr. G. W. NAPIER, of Alderley Edge, has been good enough to solve the problem of the authorship of the Sermon against mixed marriages described in Note 1555. Mr. Napier possesses what appears to be a second edition of the book, with a new title-page, &c.; and he has kindly placed it for a time in my hands. It is entitled thus:—

"A Sermon Preach'd at Chester, against Marriages in Different Communions. By Charles Leslie, Chancellor of the Cathedral of Connor, in the Kingdom of Ireland. Somewhat Improved. And the same Subject farther prosecuted, By Henry Dodwell, M.A. Sometime Fellow of Trinity College, near Dublin. London, Printed by N. B. for Charles Brome, at the Gun at the West End of St. Paul's, and Geo. Strahan, at the Golden Ball against the Royal Exchange. 1702.—8vo., pp. xxiv. 63, 254."

LESLIE, an eminent divine and writer, was the second son of Dr. John Leslie, Bishop of Clogher, and brother of John Leslie, Dean of Dromore. He does not appear to have held any benefice in connection with CHESTER. He was Chancellor of Connor from 1686 to 1690. He was intended for the Law, but took orders in 1680; and becoming a non-juror, he was deprived of his preferments. After following the Pretender on the continent for many years, he retired to Ireland, where he died in 1721. His theological works were collected, but this Sermon was not included in them.

From what Mr. Napier tells me, the editions described are very scarce. Some interesting details of Dodwell and his theories are to be found in Macaulay's *Hist. Eng.*, chaps. xii., xiv. (Ed. Tauchnitz, iv. 217, and v. 126-7). "He published a treatise in which he maintained that a marriage between a member of the Church of England and a Dissenter was a nullity." Macaulay adds that he only knew the treatise from Brokesby's copious abstract. "That Discourse is very rare." The late Rev. Mr. Lathbury told Mr. Napier that the British Museum had no copy of the book when Macaulay wrote his History. In the Catalogue of Mr. Dodwell's works prefixed to Brokesby's *Life of Dodwell* (Lond., 8vo., 1715), the twenty-eighth work is this on marriage. The analysis referred to by Macaulay occupies chap. xxii. (pp. 370, *seq.*) Brokesby says (page 38) that Dodwell's Letter for the Susception of Holy Orders was penned "for the sake of a son of Bishop Lesley, a brother to the Rev. Mr. Charles Lesley, to whom the world is so much obliged for his useful labours."

Stretford, Manchester.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

APRIL 20, 1881.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- April 20.—John Thornhill executed at Chester, for murder 1798
 „ 21.—A large pike, a yard and quarter long, caught in the River Dee; when brought to shore it attacked several persons who attempted to kill it..... 1788
 „ 23.—John Bradshaw, of Marple (afterwards Lord President of the Council), called to the Bar, aged 24..... 1637
 „ 24.—Peter Steers executed at Chester for the murder of his wife, by poison ... 1786
 „ 26.—Matthew Smallwood, of Middlewich, died Dean of Lincoln..... 1633
 J. H.

Original Documents.

[1595] THOMAS CUSACK, OF DUBLIN,
GENT.; 1610.

In collecting materials for a volume of CHESHIRE FUNERAL CERTIFICATES, which I am now editing for the *Chetham Society*, the undernoted Certificate came to hand. It relates to a member of an ancient and distinguished Irish family who was buried in Trinity Church, in the City of CHESTER, and may therefore not inappropriately find a place in the columns of THE CHESHIRE SHEAF.

According to Sir Bernard Burke, the CUSACKS descend from Sir John Cusack, lord of Gerardstown, co. Meath, who died A.D. 1360, leaving, with other issue, two sons. The elder, Simon Cusack, was summoned to Parliament as a baron, 48 Edward III., but left female issue only; the younger son, Sir Walter Cusack, is claimed as the ancestor of the Cusacks of Moyangher, co. Meath. One member of the family, Sir Thomas, was Lord Chancellor of Ireland. An article in *The Patrician*, Vol. vi., page 59, shows that one branch of the Cusack family is represented by the Duke of Wellington, and corrects some inaccurate statements of other writers.

The Certificate, which was taken by RANDLE HOLME, runs as follows:—

"THOMAS CUSAK, of the City of Dublyne, gent., dyed one the xxvijth day of September 1610, and lyeth in St. trenetes in the City of Chester.

He maryed Mary, daughter to John shaughnisye, of Dublyne, gent., [and] the[y] had yssue John [Cusack], Patriok [Cusack], and Ales Cusack.

(Signed) JOHN CHAMBERL'N."

There are various coats-of-arms recorded as belonging to different families of this name, but the one borne by the ancient lords of Gerardstown seems to have been *Per pale Or and Azure, a fesse counterchanged*: what were the arms of Mr. Thomas Cusack, of Dublin, the subject of the Funeral Certificate, does not appear.

It would be interesting to ascertain Mr. Cusack's connection with Chester, and who John Chamberlain, whose signature is attached to the certificate, was.

Thelwall.

J. PAUL RYLANDS.

The original Registers for Holy Trinity Church, Chester, where Mr. Cusack was interred, are missing for the years prior to 1654. But the Duplicates for many of the years between 1599 and 1643, have fortunately been preserved at the Bishop's Registry, over the Abbey Gateway; and on a special search there, a day or two ago, for the verification of the above Certificate, we came upon the following:—

"Thomas Cusacke, m'chant, buried the 27th sept', 1610."

There is a slight discrepancy of date, perhaps owing to one or other of the records not having been made on the precise day of its occurrence. EDITOR.

[1596] ST. JOHN'S CHURCH TOWER, CHESTER.

The night of the 14th and 15th of April, 1881, will be a melancholy one, and a memorable, in the history of the great Church of St. John's. On that night and a little after daybreak next morning, a calamity befel the church and the city, for which no amount of personal money sacrifice on the part of the citizens, or of their generous friends elsewhere, can ever adequately provide a remedy.

The grand old Perpendicular Tower, and even more grand and graceful Early English Porch, have both in one night virtually become things of the past, for they lie to-day heaped together in one sad, solemn, undistinguishable pile of ruin. Two sides only, it is true, of the steeple have as yet actually fallen; but it is almost morally certain that the two remaining ones, the southern and western faces, must one day follow the fate of the rest. Six or seven bells only, it was at first thought, out of the once melodious peal of eight, remain hanging, as it were almost literally, in mid-air: the other two, it was feared were in all probability lying shattered beneath the mass of fallen masonry,—a wilderness of danger and desolation which will probably not be removable for some weeks to come. The entire peal of bells has now been got down in safety.

I was sitting alone in my room, and actually reading ORMEROD'S description of St. John's, at the very instant, 10 o'clock, when the crash of masonry, mingled with the sound of sinking bells, fell upon my ear! The conviction at once seized me that the great Tower had succumbed; for the imminence of its fall had been for some days past manifest to all who, like myself, had watched the widening cracks in the eastern and northern

faces of the structure. I was on the spot in a few moments, and realized at once all my worst fears; for there, palpable in the moonlight to every eye, ran a fearful chasm up the northern wall of the steeple; the belfry being exposed, but the bells still all, as it now turns out, standing, though awaiting as it then seemed to every one, an all but certain destiny ere a few hours should pass by! It was a sight to daze the head, and well nigh disorder the brain, of one who reverence and revels in the treasures of the past!

Exactly three centuries ago this very year, viz., in 1581, the parishioners, having their old church, with the western end in ruins,—through the fall seven years previously of the eastern and southern sides of the tower, —handed over to them by Queen Elizabeth, began at great cost and labour to close up again the stunted nave. Apparently also, at least two other extremities of the cruciform church were reduced and closed in at the same date, and divine service was thenceforward celebrated, on the Reformed basis, in the still handsome parish church. The steeple, too, was rebuilt as far as needful at the same period: and the work our zealous forefathers then bequeathed us has borne the wear and tear of three hundred years gallantly, till hard fate has re-enacted, now, the fearful havoc the previous fall did for the sacred fabric in 1574!

But it has done more than this; for that one night's wreck has deprived us of the chaste and beautiful Early English Porch, which had become, as time grew on more precious and beautiful still after its nearly three centuries' accumulation of mould and decay. There it lies now, crushed and mangled beyond, it is sadly to be feared, the possibility of restoration; and thus has one more milestone, marking the city's life journey, perished before our very eyes!

The fragment remaining of the steeple,—for a second fall occurred at four next morning,—is probably doomed to immediate destruction. If so, old Chester will be shorn of another grand feature in its sky-line; for, viewed from whatever point the city may, the massive tower of St. John's has been long a landmark familiar to the eye and dear to the sympathies of the thoughtful Cestrian, and to every intelligent visitor to our venerable city.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1597] THOMAS CLARKE, THE ABBOT-DEAN.

The erection of Chester into an independent see (it had been a joint one for centuries previously); the transfer of the bishop's seat from St. John's without the City Walls, to the conventual church of St. Werburgh's within; the uprooting of the monastic for the cathedral system; and the general upset in matters ecclesiastical

that accompanied the Reformation;—all these influences must have made it a rather hot time for the monks of St. Werburgh, who had been bred and educated to the old *regime*.

At this period THOMAS CLARKE was the occupant of the abbatial chair; and he had held the dignity for just four years when, in 1541, he was called upon to elect between beggary with personal independence, and the affluent ease of a Deanery, coupled with unlimited submission to the King as temporal head. It is not, perhaps, so very much to be wondered at that he chose the latter.

THOMAS CLARKE, now duly installed as Dean of Chester, makes his Will on the 13th of September, 1541, a few months only after exchanging the abbacy of St. Werburgh's for the headship of the new Cathedral. He therein bequeaths his "sole vnto Almightye God, creator and maker off this worlde, our Ladye Saynt Marye, and vnto all the hollye companye off heaue", and his bodye to be buryed befoore the highe altare w'tin the quire off ye seyde cathedrall churche."

There is no doubt this last-named wish of his was carried out: but, when the chancel floor was lowered during the recent work of restoration, at which time numerous lead coffins of bishops and other personages of note were laid bare, I could find no trace of the coffin or of the burial place of Dean CLARKE. Yet possibly it may be there after all, and at a lower level than was reached at the period named; though rock is found close to the surface in the quire, and the graves have originally been all excavations in the solid red sandstone upon which the Cathedral was built.

An alternative suggestion is, that the "high altare" at and immediately following the Reformation may have stood more towards the centre of the quire; in which case, Abbot-Dean CLARKE's grave would have to be sought for considerably to the westward of the present altar steps.

The Dean ordered in his Will that his "funerall costes and charges be made off his whole goodes;" and in the Accounts filed by the executors this entry occurs: "Imprimis, ffor funerall expe'ses abowt the buriall off the testator, xlii. xijs. ijd.," from which it is evident that the funeral was a stately and sumptuous affair, costing not far short of £400 of our present money.

THOMAS CLARKE's Inventory is a curious document, and quite a study for readers of the present day. Could, indeed the items be catalogued properly, and put up to auction in our old city to-morrow, they would probably fetch several thousand pounds, and would certainly bring the cognoscenti to the front, and all the Jews from Wardour-street as well, in a seething and exciting crowd!

In a day when men did notoriously inconsistent things, and blushed not to find them fame, Dean CLARKE was very fairly exempt from the charge of

being a trimmer. True, he surrendered the crook of the Abbot for a Dean's dotation; but, as is evident enough from his Will, he did not allow his conscience to change along with his dignity. He cannot, however, have held his new position more than about a year; for in the Treasurer's Accounts of the Chapter for 1542, I find HENRY MAN, his successor, receiving his quarterly stipend then as Dean.

F. S. A.

Queries.

[1598] HAWARDEN CASTLE.

Is there any reliable account extant of the architectural features of HAWARDEN CASTLE? I of course don't refer to the modern make-believe at present dignified by the ownership of the Premier of England; but to that manifestly important border fortress within a stone's throw of what will itself hereafter be entitled to rank as an historic mansion. There are features about the old ruin that seem quite unlike the other border castles of this neighbourhood, and that deserve some investigation and inquiry.

CAMERO-BRITON.

[1599] MONK'S HEATH, CHESHIRE.

From enquiries I have been making at the instance of a distant correspondent, I find authorities varying as to the position of these once apparently church lands. One of my informants tells me that MONK'S-HEATH is part of the old forest of Macclesfield; while another declares that it is almost certainly part of the forest of Delamere. ORMEROD, I see, incidentally mentions a Monksheath Hall, near Macclesfield, but nothing that he says seems to warrant the belief that that is the property my correspondent enquires about. Will you kindly set the engines of THE SHEAF at work to unravel this difficulty?

H. S. A.

[1600] MISS CHOLMONDELEY'S SUDDEN DEATH.

My old grandfather, who had been all his life, as had his father before him, a tenant of the CHOLMONDELEY family, used to tell me of an accident that befel a lady of the House in the days of his early manhood. I do not remember where the casualty occurred, but I know it ultimately caused her death. Being only a Cheshire yeoman, you will not be surprised that I have no printed authorities at hand to consult; but as your numerous correspondents seem, in our Cheshire way of putting it, to "know summut aboot owt," I venture to ask them for a short account of this now all-but forgotten incident in the history of the CHOLMONDELEYS.

E. C. Y. C.

Replies.

[1601] NANTWICH SCHOOL HOUSE.

[Nos. 260, 305.—Sept. 18, Oct. 9, 1878.]

I have access to what I suppose to be an original sketch of the above. The drawing is a small one (being $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches), in pencil, and is dated May 11th, 1857.

There was no name on the view to indicate where the structure was; but, luckily, the inscription quoted in No. 260 was written on the sketch, and thus afforded me the necessary clue for identification.

The drawing shows the building as existing in the Churchyard, and as abutting partly on the street. The only elevation shown is the one fronting the street, which has a projecting limb standing on pillars similar to those in Foregate-street, CHESTER; but with its profiles built up, thus forming a large open porch, over which was a room formed into a gable. A large mullioned window occupied the centre of this gable, from which were set out, with much grace and taste, the various ribs of timber forming the "black and white." Below the window the panels are three in number, which are decorated with shields and ornamental plaster work. Above the window in the gable are several panels, similarly ornamented with shields and plaster; the sides of the window are supported by timberwork of the V shape, every piece of timber resting on a middle upright style. This projecting porch is completed by a deep, heavy, but plain, barge-board, which sits well upon the whole gable.

Of the general body of the building there is little shown, and from this I conclude the porch was the principal piece of work worth sketching. Generally speaking, the structure seems to have had no parallel in CHESTER. Perhaps the nearest relative may be the one in Foregate-street, close to Love-lane; but even in this there cannot be said to be much resemblance, the NANTWICH building being more carefully worked out with regard to detail.

The site of the edifice, judging by the sketch, I suppose to be somewhere opposite the two banking premises in Churchyard Side. I fix this position as the probable one, because on the left hand of the building stands a large tree: beyond, on the opposite side of the Churchyard, is a row of houses, which I conclude are those which now stand in the walk between High-street and the principal entrance to the Parish Church.

If I be wrong as to the position, I shall be glad to be corrected, being only a casual visitor to the ancient town of Nantwich; but it is of great importance that reliable particulars should be obtained before the present generation entirely passes away.

Since writing the above, I have found a few lines in print bearing upon this structure. They occur in an

article on the Architecture at the Paris Exhibition of 1878, and run as follows:—

"The fourth house (in the International Façade) is erected by Messrs. Wm. Cubitt and Co., of Gray's Inn-road, from the designs of Mr. Gilbert Redgrave. . . . In designing this building, the architect has been inspired by some well-known examples of sixteenth-century work, and the projecting central bay is founded upon a drawing of the old Guildhall at NANTWICH, Cheshire. This structure was, nearly 250 years ago, converted into a Grammar School, and was pulled down to improve the churchyard some ten or twelve years back. From the illustration given in the second volume of Richardson's *Architectural Remains*, this old School must have been a noble specimen of half-timbered work; and, if any of our readers happen to have drawings of it we should be glad to give an illustration, for it is sad that work of this kind should disappear without any accurate record having been preserved of it. Mr. Redgrave has sought in his design to introduce characteristic specimens of the half-timber work of our forefathers, as found in Cheshire and the surrounding counties."

—*The Building News*, May 31, 1878.

This extract, forming a portion of the article, shews that a drawing is preserved in Richardson's work, and I should be glad to know how my description compares with his elevation?

On the authority of Mr. Hirst, master of the Nantwich Grammar School, Mr. Redgrave wrote to say that the "building was pulled down by the churchwardens about 13 years ago."

Do the Parish Books mention anything of this unfortunate mistake on the part of the Nantwich would-be beautifiers? J. H.

[1602] BOW CHURCH BELLS.

[No. 1495.—Feb. 10.]

The old county saying, quoted by "LUCY D. T.," that "Cheshire made Bow Bells to ring," may have been in some degree associated with the Curfew, or Bobell, rung nightly at nine o'clock in Chester Cathedral; but I think there is another equally plausible, and more literal, explanation available.

Dr. Thomas Fuller, in his *Worthies of England*, edn. of 1662, p. 181, says:—

"GEORGE PALIN was (as I have cogent presumptions) born at Wrenbury in Cheshire, bred a Merchant in London, free of the Company of *Girdlers*. Indeed we may call his Benefactions *Aureum Cingulum charitatis*, the golden girdle of Charity. With our Saviour he went about doing good, completing the Circuit of his Bounty, continuing till he ended where he began.

1. To Wrenbury (where we believe him born), Two Hundred pound to purchase Lands for the relief of the poor.

2. Nine Hundred pound for the building of Almshouses in or about London.

3. To Trinity Colledge in Cambridge, three hundred pound.

4. To the Colledge of Saint Johns the Evangelist in Cambridge, three hundred pounds.

5. To the Hospitall of Saint Thomas in Southwark, fifty pounds.

6. To the preachers at Paul's Cross, towards the bearing of their charges, two hundred pounds.

7. Toward the making a sweet Chime in Bow Church, one hundred pounds.

8. To six Prisons in and about London, sixty pounds.

9. To Brasen-Nose colledge in Oxford, two Scholarships, to each yearly four pounds.

10. To the Colledge of Saint John Baptist in Oxford, two Scholarships of the same value.

11. To Christ Church Hospital, three hundred pounds.

12. To the Church and Poor of Wrenbury, (to buy them Gowns) seventy pounds.

With other Benefactions; Verily, I say unto you, I have not met a more universall and impartial Charity to all Objects of want and worth. He died about the beginning of the reign of King James."

I think there is no doubt that it was Mr. George Palin's bequest of £100 "toward the making a sweet chime," as above rehearsed, that gave rise to the saying that "Cheshire made Bow Bells to ring!" It would be very interesting to know whether the parish records of Bow are at all eloquent upon this point; and whether there is any inscription upon either of the bells, or in the belfry of the church, referring to the Cheshire Girdler's gift to the London parish in which he probably lived and died.

T. HUGHES.

APRIL 27, 1881.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- April 27.—Chester and Birkenhead Railway,—first ground broken at Chester to commence its construction..... 1838
- „ 28.—Victor Albert, Earl Grosvenor, born on the first anniversary of his father's wedding-day 1853
- May 2.—St. Michael's Church, Chester,—permission granted by Chancellor Gastrell to build a new West Gallery 1738
- „ 3.—The Lord Keeper Ellesmere confirmed in that office by King James I..... 1603
- J. H.

Original Documents.

[1603] THE PARRYS, OF CWM, CO. DENBIGH.

We print to-day another of the series of local FUNERAL PROCESSIONS, transcribed by our valued correspondent, Mr. J. PAUL RYLANDS, F.S.A., from

Harleian MS. No. 2129, in the British Museum. The remarks which immediately follow the Funeral Order have been contributed at our request by a well-known Welsh genealogist, and invest the Document with more than ordinary interest:—

"Order of funerall of RICH: PARRY, of CWM, where he dyed, and buried at St. ASAPH Church, July, 1640.

50 poore in white cotes wth his name [i.e., his initials] E.P.,

before and behind, carringe pannels.

Randle Holme, Junr.,

Robt. Wyn, the penon of Armes

Evan David, the helme and orest

Mr. Hugh Thomas, the cote of Armes

Mr. Evans, the preacher. Mr. Edwards, parson of Cwme

the corpses, carried by gent

Mr. John Parry, alone.

Mr. Will^m [Parry], and Mr. Rich. Parry

Mr. Morgan Morgans, Mr. Robt. Greene,

the gentlemen of blood, &c."

"I have little doubt that the object of your inquiry was RICHARD PARRY, Esq., of PWLLHALOG, in the Parish of CWM, county Flint, of which he was High Sheriff in 1634.

He was the only son of RICHARD PARRY, of Pwllhalog, the famous Bishop of St. ASAPH, who assisted Bishop Morgan in the translation of the Bible into Welsh, and wrote the dedication to King James. His son married Mary, dau. of Thomas Mostyn, Esq., of Rhyd, Co. Flint, by whom he had a large family, whose names I have not yet been able to find. But in all probability his eldest surviving son was William Parry, of Llwynyn and Pwllhalog, who was High Sheriff of Denbighshire in 1668.

Mr. Richard Parry, of Warfield and Llwynyn, who died in 1836, was lineally descended from the Bishop; and the son of his eldest sister—Colonel Haygarth, late of the Scots Fusilier Guards—is now the possessor of Llwynyn, and, as far as I know, the representative of the family. Pwllhalog was sold many years ago to the Mostyns, who resold it to the late Mr. Shipley-Conwy, of Bodrhyddan. It is now a farm house.

I annex, in a Pedigree form, the information you require, that you may see the facts at a glance:—

John ap Harry, or John Parry, of Pwllhalog, in Parish of Cwm, Co. Flint, married Ellen, dau. & heir of David ap John ap Twma, of Llanfair, descended from Tudor Trevor, and had issue:—

Richard Parry, born at Ruthin in 1560; consecrated Bishop of St. Asaph 30 Decr., 1604; died at Diserth 26 Sept., 1623. He married Gwen, dau. & heir of John ap Rees Wyn—who assumed the name of Price—of Llwynyn. She married 2ndly, on Sept. 27, 1624, Thomas Mostyn, Esq., of Rhyd, Co. Flint. By her first husband, the Bishop, she had,—

1. Richard Parry, only son, alive in 1626, High Sheriff of Flint 1634. He married 27 Sept.,

1624, Mary, dau. of Thos. Mostyn, Esq., of Rhyd, by Anne, dau. & heir to Wm. Hughes, Bishop of St. Asaph, appointed 11 Decr., 1573. He died 18 Nov., 1600.

2. Anne, married, 27 Sept., 1624, William, eldest son & heir of Thomas Mostyn, Esq., of Rhyd.

You will observe that the Bishop's widow, the day after the expiration of her year's mourning, married Mr. Thomas Mostyn; and that on the same day her son and heir espoused Mr. Mostyn's daughter, and his son and heir married the daughter of the Bishop!

K."

The "50 poore in white cotes," are recorded as "carringe pencells," otherwise — *penonceals*, small banners bearing heraldic devices. Gower writes of these *pencells* in the following terms:—

"Endelonge [lengthwise of] the schippes borde to schewe

Of *penonceals* a riche rewe."

Of the two clergymen named by Randle Holme, "Mr. Euans, the preacher," was most probably Mr. Richard Evans, Rector of Llanrwst, 1618-9, Vicar of Dymeirchion, 1619-23, Vicar of Pool, 1622-6, Rector of Halkin, 1626-33, Prebendary of Myfod in St. Asaph Cathedral, and Vicar of Llanasaph from 1633 until his death, and in this last named church he lies buried. "Mr. Edwards, parson of Cwm," was appointed in 1633, having previously been Rector of St. George, and Vicar Choral of St. Asaph Cathedral.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[1604] PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION
OF CHESTER, CITY AND COUNTY.
(Continued from No. 1588.)

1643.

This Parliament is not alluded to in either the "Parliamentary Blue Book," or Browne Willis' *Notitia Parliamentaria*, or by our own local historians: but in a small volume, containing "a Catalogue of the Names of all such who were Summon'd to any Parliament (or reputed Parliament) from the year 1640, printed for Robert Pawley, and are to be sold at his shop at the Bible in Chancery Lane, 1661," occurs:—

"II. The Parliament held at Oxford.

Parliament assembled at Oxford, January 1843.

THO. SMITH.
F. GAMULL."

SIR THOMAS SMITH, Knt. See Parliament 15 Charles I., 1640.

FRANCIS GAMULL. See Parliament 16 Charles I., 1640.

In 1642, according to a table of Chronological Events connected with Chester, it appears that Mr. ALDERMAN WALLEY (of whom hereafter) and Mr. SHERIFF JOHNSON went to Oxford, to the King, representing to him the state of the city, and soliciting his protection against the friends of the Parliament.

Interregnum (1653).

An Assembly nominated by Oliver Cromwell, at a Council of Officers, was summoned to meet at Westminster, 4th July, 1653, by Letters under the hand of the Lord General Cromwell. This Assembly declared itself a Parliament, 6th July, and resigned its powers to the Lord General, 12th December, 1653 (*House of Commons Journals*).

N.B.—A List of this Parliament is given in Browne Willis' *Notitia Parliamentaria*, which is then described as for the most part taken from Lists printed in those times.

On referring to Browne Willis we find as follows:—

"5 Charles II.

Parliament July 5, An. 1653.

This Parliament, called "The Little Parliament," was convened by the usurper Oliver Cromwell: But no Burgesses or Representatives were summoned to it, except for London, and only some few returned out of each County in general. It met July 5, and sate to Dec. 12, 1653.

ROBERT DUCKENFIELD,
HENRY BIRKENHEAD,"

are given both by Browne Willis and Pawley as Members for the County. The latter describes it as "Cromwell's Convention, called Barebones Parliament."

Parliament (1654).

Summoned to meet at Westminster, 3 September dissolved 22 January, 1654-5. In this Parliament several Knights were ordered to be returned for each County; not many Burgesses. Members were elected for certain Sherifdoms and groups of Boroughs in Scotland, and for certain Counties or groups of Counties, Cities, and Towns in Ireland.

No return found.

Browne Willis, in reference to this Parliament, says:—

"This Parliament, consisting of the Knights of the Counties and Burgesses of the Boroughs and Towns, and Barons of the Cinque Ports of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland, began at Westminster, Sept. 3, 1654, and held to January 22 following."

CHARLES WALLEY, Esq.

Pawley gives the same return, and endorses it as

"The Convention turned out of doors without doing anything."

CHARLES WALLEY, Esq., was an Innkeeper in the City, and filled the office of Sheriff in 1619, and Mayor in 1630 and 1644. During his first year of office as Mayor,

the Duchess of Tremouille, mother-in-law to Lord Strange, visited CHESTER, when she was met by the Corporation, the Artillery, and at least 600 horsemen.

In 1644, the City began to feel the miseries of the Civil War, for it was on July 18th of that year that the SIEGE of Chester commenced; and the times then were so turbulent, that there was no election of civic officers for the year following. He (CHARLES WALLEY) was agent at Chester and Liverpool for the transporting of soldiers to Ireland and for billeting them in Chester.

During the Interregnum, the Hall and demesne of SAUGHTON were sequestered from the CALVELEY family, and sold to Charles Walley; whose great grandson, Robert Walley, dying without issue, they were purchased from his widow, about the year 1775, by an ancestor of the CUNLIFFE family, but now form part of the Duke of Westminster's Cheshire estates.

It appears that WALLEY must have been just such another as "the Vicar of Bray;" for, when the King was in Chester during his Mayoralty, he attended him on the Phoenix Tower, and was afterwards one of the six to dissent from the Articles of Surrender; while, but a short time later, he was in active correspondence with Henry Cromwell, the Protector's son!

Ledsham.

R. M.

Queries.

[1605] MAYORAL TABLES AT ST. JOHN'S, CHESTER.

The late fall of the venerable tower of St. John's Church has recalled to my memory two wooden Tablets, containing the armorial bearings of those Mayors of Chester, who, since the 16th century, had been parishioners of St. John's. The last time I saw these relics they were in the vestibule beneath the tower, and I am anxious to know whether they have shared the general wreck, and if not, whether a short description of them could not be printed in THE SHEAF.

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[1606] J. G. BUBB, SCULPTOR.

This artist, who confined himself mainly, I believe, to monumental work, in which he attained some eminence, appears, by a memorandum now before me, to have executed a bas relief memorial of a child in one or other of our Cheshire churches. Will any one versed in such matters kindly inform me where this sculptured monument is to be found, and give some slight description of it?

Stone, Staffordshire.

A. MASON.

[1607] A REPUTED CENTENARIAN.

A few weeks ago appeared in the *Guardian* a notice of an old woman at MARTON, named Betty Booth, who was said to be a centenarian. Is she really one? I ask this, because many are said to be so when they are not. Where was she baptized?

J. H.

Replies.

[1608] EDWARD BUTTON, OF CHESTER.

[No. 1832.—Oct. 6, 1880.]

On referring to the proceedings of the Chester Town Council in the reign of James the First, I find several distinct proofs of the existence of this worthy. One of the most apposite I transcribe for the benefit of your correspondent, "R. M." :—

"Alsoe Att the same Assembly (December 19, 1600), Mr. EDWARD BUTTON, one of the Sherifes of this Citty, exhibiteth his petio'on for a fee farme of a voided piece of land for to build three baies vppon."

This official notice of Mr. BUTTON is, I venture to think, indisputable; but I add, in corroboration, a short extract from a "MS. Chronology of Remarkable Events in the City of Chester," once belonging to the Rev. William Richardson, a former Vicar of St. John's, and afterwards, I believe, to the late Rev. J. R. Lyon, of Pulford:—

"1616. Mr. Edwards Button was elected and chosen Maior of this Citty, the 10th of October 1616."

As a further argument in favour of his separate identity from EDWARD DUTTON, a controversy between "Mr. EDWARD DUTTON, Esq., & the Parishioners of St. Peters parishe" is mentioned under the year 1615.

MARTLET.

[1609] THE BROSTER FAMILY.

[Nos. 1552, 1572, 1585.—March 16, 80, April 6.]

In No. 1585, JOHN BROSTER is mentioned as a person who cured "stammerers." There is no doubt that he did so, and successfully. In former days he was a "Chester celebrity," and carried on business there as a bookseller, being much respected as an honourable, honest man. He dealt much in antiquarian lore and curiosities of literature, and often, when he had a good collection of such, he travelled to London and Dublin to dispose of them. During one of his visits to the latter city he called on, and claimed kindred with, Mr. Abraham Brewster, then rising to eminence at the Irish Bar, and subsequently Lord High Chancellor of Ireland.

For many years he had said that he was in possession of a secret, which, in case of adverse circumstances in his business, would enable him to obtain a competency for the rest of his life. This secret he did not disclose, but always said he should not have recourse to it till his business failed. This event happened, perhaps fortunately for him, somewhere about 60 years ago; and then he left Chester and settled in Edinburgh, where he commenced as Professor for the cure of impediments of speech,—his long kept secret. There he obtained many pupils, and became well known and respected.

As I write, I have before me a very well executed mezzotinto half-figure likeness of him, about eight inches long by six broad :—

"John Syme, pinxit.; T. Hodgetts, fecit.

JOHN BROSTER, Esq., F.A.S., Edinburgh,
Discoverer of the System for the effectual removal of
(His crest, arms, and motto)
Impediments of Speech."

From Edinburgh he removed to London, and was residing in a handsome house in Cadogan Place about the years 1826, 1827, and 1828, having a large establishment, and a number of pupils who boarded with him. Having realised what he considered a competency, he retired to the Isle of Wight, where he lived during the remainder of his life.

It has been stated that during his rambles along the seashore he frequently met the children of Her Majesty, and entered into conversation with them about the shells and seaweeds that they picked up, never pretending to know whose children they were. He was quite competent to give good instruction on such subjects. On one occasion when the Queen was with them, one of the children said to Her, "Here is the old gentleman who tells us all about the shells and seaweeds"—when Her Majesty approached him, and in the most condescending manner thanked him, informing him that the children were Hers, and kindly enquiring about his history and circumstances. Finally, She asked him was there anything She could do for him? Gratefully thanking Her Majesty, he said there was not, for that he had quite sufficient for all his wants, &c. This interview, however, led to the appointment of his nephew to a situation in Buckingham Palace, which he enjoyed for several years.

JOHN BROSTER, the "Chester Celebrity," died contented in the Isle of Wight. He was never married.

Dublin.

W. MONK GIBBON.

On turning over some old papers of mine, copied by me certainly at least 50 years ago, I found the annexed anecdote :—

"In the year 1711, in the mayoralty of JOHN MINSHULL, the Lord Lieutenant in his way to Ireland stopped at the 'Golden Falcon,' near the Northgate: and on the morning as he and one of his suite were proceeding to PARKGATE, a waiter employed at the Inn ran after one of his servants, and

demanding payment for some article that he had forgotten, or neglected, to pay for. The servant refused to pay, and the waiter earnestly insisted on being paid before he would quit hold of his bridle;—upon which the servant drew a pistol from his holster, and shot the waiter dead. Upon his imprisonment, the Lord Lieutenant directed that if he should be convicted, an express should be immediately sent to him, that he might apply for his pardon to the King: which being told to the Mayor he said, "I will take care that the King and the Lord Lieutenant shall not have any further trouble about this matter," and ordered the man to be executed the next morning after his conviction! PETER BROSTER."

Your recent numbers of THE SHEAF, which refer to the BROSTERS, remind me that I, as a lad, received this from the hands of a Herald Painter of that name in Chester, who had also a residence in Cadogan Place, London, where he professed to cure stammering; in which, notwithstanding the amusing cure mentioned in your last week's SHEAF, he had much success. I would willingly be informed whether this anecdote of JOHN MINSHULL as Mayor is treated as authentic in CHESTER, and whether any authority for it exists? It is long since, but I seem to remember that Mr. BROSTER told me that it was in a newspaper cutting of his father's. THE SHEAF [No. 1164] printed a letter, written by the above-mentioned JOHN MINSHULL in 1727, not long before his death. Another query occurs to me: the same SHEAF (*loco citato*), mentions MICHAEL JOHNSON as having succeeded the Earl of Derby as Mayor of Chester. Was he any relation of Michael Johnson, father of Dr. JOHNSON, who was living at the same time?

Stafford.

T. J. M.

[1610] JOHN DUTTON OF BURLAND.

[No. 1592.—April 18.]

I copy the following from a memorial card of 25 years ago, of Joseph Dutton, Esq., who would, no doubt, be the father of the gentleman referred to :—

"JOSEPH DUTTON, Esq. This gentleman died at Burland Hall, Cheshire, November 23rd, 1856, aged eighty-eight.

The Duttons claim consanguinity with the ancient blood-royal of England, being descended from Rollo, first Duke of Normandy, through William Earl of Eu, who married a niece of William the Conqueror. Mr. Dutton was the twenty-fourth in direct lineal descent from Rollo, and eldest heir male of the fifth Earl of Eu. Sir Peter Leycester, who compiled the Dutton pedigree up to the year 1686, observes that 'the family is one of great worth, with almost a constant succession of knights.'

Ancestors of the present Lords Sefton, De Tabley, Cholmondeley, and Delamere, and of the Lords Warren, Bulkeley, and Rivers of Bocksbury (extinct), have married into this family; and from Elinor, heiress of Thomas Dutton, who married Lord Gerard, descend the present Duke of Hamilton,

the Earl of Derby, and the Earl of Kilmorey. From a younger branch of the family descended Sir Ralph Dutton, whose only daughter and heiress, Anne, married James Napier; and their grandson having resumed the name of Dutton, was created Baron Sherborne, who was the father of the present Peer. The late Mr. Dutton married Miss Cawley, of Swandley, and has left several children."

I trust the above may assist your correspondent, and I await with interest other replies.

"SERVABO FIDEM."

[1611] COLONEL ROGER WHITLEY.

[No. 1589.—April 13.]

Colonel ROGER WHITLEY was second son of Thomas Whitley, High Sheriff of Flint, anno 1637. This Thomas Whitley was fifth in descent from Roger Whitley, of Aston. ROGER WHITLEY was a colonel in the army of King Charles I., and Knight and Harbinger to King Charles II. in 1671. He died of 1697. He possessed a very fine estate in the Parish in Northop, which descended to the Earl of Plymouth.

The last Whitley who owned any of this property became very poor: he was cousin of the Rev. Edward Whitley, of Berse Drelinacourt and Minera; and also of the Rev. Peter Whitley, Vicar of Cwm and Nantglyn, and Vicar Choral of St. Asaph Cathedral. The latter portion of this property was bought by the late EDWARD BATE, Esq., of Kelsterton.

THE HAWK.

MAY 4, 1881.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- May 4.—James Knight hanged on Gallows Hill, Boughton, for a burglary at Odd Rode..... 1776
- „ 6.—George Glover and William Proudlove hanged at the Northgate Prison, Chester, for feloniously wounding an Excise Officer at Odd Rode..... 1809
- „ 7.—A blasphemous sham-playbill posted about the streets of Chester, during the Race Week, by some half-crazed fanatics 1816
- „ 8.—A servant of Sir William Stanley of Hooton, riding at full speed, killed, along with his horse, in collision with a servant of Mr. Watts of Binley, each refusing to give way to the other..... 1775
- „ 10.—Henry de Sutton, Abbot of St. Werburgh's at Chester, died (year uncertain) 141.
- J. H.

Original Documents.

[1612] RALPH EGERTON OF RIDLEY, Esq.

The Funeral Certificate we produce to-day has been kindly furnished to us by a correspondent who, under the signature of "ALIEN," has already lent much efficient aid to THE SHEAF.

The Document has many points of interest in connection with that knightly family,—the EGERTONS OF RIDLEY,—for several generations a vigorous offshoot from the parent house of EGERTON, but now long since extinct; though portions of their manor house, we fancy, still shelter themselves modestly under the picturesque Peckforton Hills.

"RAFFE EGERTON," whose Funeral Certificate, drawn up by Randle Holme the elder, deputy Chester Herald, we here give entire, was son of Sir Richard Egerton of Ridley, knight, by Mary, daughter of Sir Richard Grosvenor, of Eaton, knight, which lady has several times already figured in these columns. His illegitimate half-brother, THOMAS EGERTON, Lord Viscount Brackley, and Lord Chancellor of England, conferred greater honour on the name than all the lawful issue and descendants of Sir Richard put together, and will ever be deemed in history one of "Cheshire's chief of men."

The Document runs thus,—

"RAFFE EGERTON, of Rydley, in the County of Chester, esq'r, sonne of S'r Richard Egerton, of the same place and county knight, departed this mortall lyfe at Stooke vpon Terne, in the County of Salop, the xvijth of November, 1619, and was buried at Bunbury, in the County of Chester, in his tounge in his owne chapple there. He married to his first wife, Barbora, sole daughter and heire to Steuan Holford, of Allerston, in the County of Yorke, esq'r; by whom he had yssue—

S'r Richard Egerton, knight, now of the age of 43 yeares or thereabouts. He married Mary, sole daughter and heire of S'r Randle Brerton, of Malepase, in the County of Chester, knight, and had yssue by her—

Richard Egerton, his sonne and heire apparent, now of the age of 16 yeares, or thereabouts. He married Margaret, daughter to William Brerton, of Handford in the County of Chester, esq'r.

Thomas, seacond sonne to S'r Richard.

John, 3 sonne. Robert, 4 sonne.

Elizabeth, eldest daughter. Barbora, second daughter. Frances, 3 daughter. Mary, 4 daughter, and Jane Egerton, youngest daughter.

Raffe Egerton, seacond sonne to the Defunct, married Sara, sole daughter and heire to Edward Eyton, of Eyton, in the County of Denbigh, esq'r: she was widdow to Owen Brerton, of Burasham, in the County of Denbigh, esq'r, the sonne of Edward Brerton, of the same place and county, esq'r.

Thomas [Egerton], 3 son to the defunct.

Elizabeth, eldest daught'r to the defunct, married Peers Holland, of vaydriff, in the County of Denbigh, esq'r.; they have yssue David, Raffe, and Dorothy Holland.

The saide Defunct married, to his seacond wife, Elizabeth, seacond daught'r and one of the heires of Peter Warburton, of Arley, in the County of Chester, esq'r, by whom he had yssue—

Peeter Egerton, now of the age of 27 yeares or thereabouts. He married Elizabeth, daughter and heire of Leonard Ashaw, of Shaw, in the County of Lane'r, esq'r: they have yssue—

Leonard Egerton, his eldest sonne, now of the age of 3 yeares or thereabouts, 1619, Elizabeth, and Jane Egerton.

John Egerton, seacond sonne to the defunct, by the seacond wife.

Mary, eldest daught'r, died yonge.

Anne, seacond daughter to the defunct, by the said wife.

francis, 3 daughter, married Owen Brerton, of Burasham, in the County of Denbigh, esq'r, sonne of Owen, sonne of Edward, of the same place and county aforesaide, esq'r.

This Certificate was taken at SHOOCLACH, in the County of Chester, the 20th day of March, 1619, by RANDLE HOLME, of the City of Chester, Deputie, vnder the hand of S'r Richard Egerton, knight, sonne and heire of Raffe Egerton, Deceased."

It will have been noted in reading the above, that RICHARD EGERTON, junr., was but 16 years old at the death of his grandfather, and yet that he was a married man! This introduces to us another, and doubtless a pernicious, practice of our ancestors,—that of marrying their heirs during the years of childhood, and before the infants could possibly know aught of the responsibilities of matrimony, or of the suitability of their respective helpmates. Thus frequently, after the children had been contracted and had, in a sense, lived together for years, one or both on reaching years of discretion repudiated the bond, and turned the tables on their manœuvring relatives. It was not strictly so in the present instance, for there were three children born of the marriage,—the eldest when her father was but 19 years of age. But if there was not a renunciation of the marriage, something happened almost as bad; for the young husband, succeeding at the age of 24 to estates worth near upon £5,000 per annum, squandered it almost all away in gambling and riotous living, and left scarcely anything save poverty and disgrace to his innocent issue! His unfortunate wife was the only sister of the celebrated SIR WILLIAM BRERETON, first baronet of Honford, the Cheshire commander for the Parliament, and ultimately the besieger and captor of CHESTER city in the Civil War.

PETER EGERTON, elder son of the deceased by his second marriage, was a violent adherent of the Parliament during the Civil War, under his step-uncle, Sir William Brereton, and saw considerable service in

Lancashire during the troublous period. His chief residence in times of peace was at Boughton, Chester.

EDITOR.

[1613] JOHN THORNHILL, EXECUTED FOR MURDER IN 1798.

In the "Weekly' Diary of Local Events," in THE SHEAF for 20th April, mention is made of the execution of JOHN THORNHILL. The following particulars copied from the LYMM Parish Register Book will probably interest some of your readers.

"1798. January 12th. Buried—Sarah Malone. She was murdered by John Thornhill (by whom she was with child) on the 5th inst., and thrown into the Mill-dam. The body was found on the 8th. Thornhill was committed to Chester Castle on a strong suspicion. Arraigned on 20th April, and after a trial of 14 hours was convicted upon the strongest presumptive evidence, and executed on the 23rd. When at the gallows, and not till then, he acknowledged himself guilty. He was servant to the Rev. Mr. Archdeacon [EGERTON] LEIGH, Rector of LYMME."

Thelwall.

J. PAUL RYLANDS.

Notes.

[1614] SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH BELLS, CHESTER.

Just twenty-three years ago, in company with my friend Mr. John B. Marsh, of London, I made an expedition to the belfry of the now dilapidated Tower of St. John the Baptist, Chester. In the present critical position of these same old Bells, and entertaining a hope that they may, almost ere this sees the light, be rescued from all harm, the thought occurred to me that any historical information affecting them might be interesting. The notes were taken in pencil, and are somewhat indistinct; but I believe the following is a correct copy of the dates and inscriptions upon them:—

1. ABB. RUDHALL CAST US ALL. 1710.
diameter of mouth, 28 inches.
2. RAND. STANWAY, THOS. DODD, CH-WNS. A.B. 1710.
3. GOD SAVE QUEEN ANN. A.B. 1710.
4. PROSPERITY TO ALL OUR BENEFACTORS. 1710.
diameter of mouth, 30 in.
5. PEACE & GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD. A.B. 1710.
diameter of mouth, 34 in.
6. PROSPERITY TO THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND. A.B. 1710.
7. INO: CREW: IUNE: ESQR: SE: ROBT: GROVENOR
BT. SE: CHS: BUNBURY BT: WATKN: WM3:
WYNN ESQR.
on upper band,—and just below the band the following line,
GABL: WETENHALL ESQR & JAS COMBERBACH
ALDERMAN. CH-WARDENS. A.B. 1733.
diameter 28 in.

8. PROSPERITY TO THE SOCIETY OF CHESTER SCHOLARS.

A.B. 1783.

diameter 20 in.

Eccleston, April 27, 1881.

ISAAC E. EWEN.

Two of the Bells were got safely down from their perilous position on Friday, the 29th, and three more on Saturday, the 30th. The remainder of the peal of eight, being the three larger Bells, have yet to be removed.

We shall probably return to this subject of the rescued Bells next week.

EDITOR.

[1615]

FLINT CASTLE.

The period when this Castle was erected is a point which has been much questioned by historians. Camden asserts that it was begun by Henry II. in 1157, and finished by Edward I. Lord Lyttelton is of the same opinion. Leland attributes its foundation to Edward I. Pennant frankly says, "The founder of this Castle is uncertain."

The Rev. Charles H. Hartshorne, in an able paper read on the occasion of the annual meeting of the Archaeological Institute of Great Britain, held in CHESTER, in July, 1857, stated that no accounts of the expenses of erecting FLINT CASTLE had been preserved; and other authorities appear to be of the same opinion. This, however, is a mistake, for at the Public Record Office, London, there is a roll endorsed—

"Roll of the stipends of the carpenters, masons, smiths, dykers, and other workmen, who were in the army of the King at FLIND and BODELAN, in the time of the Welsh War, in the fifth year of the reign of King Edward (1277), and paid by Master THOMAS BEKE, keeper of the Wardrobe of the aforesaid King."

In which will be found entries of payments made "for the construction of the castle of FLIND" between Sunday the 25th day of July in that year, and the 7th day following "Sunday, the day of the beheading of Saint John the Baptist," viz.:—28th day of August following. The total amount of these payments is £922 11s. 8½d., a sum equal to £10,000 or £14,000 in these days.

Of this amount, £618 2s. 8½d. was paid to Dykers, who were paid at the rate of 8d. a day; their 'twenty-men,' or foremen as we should now call them, being paid 4d. a day. So large a number being employed, may have been occasioned by the river having to be dammed out, while the works were proceeding; or perhaps they were engaged also in making the moat around the town, which from the traces of it often met with in the present day, must have been a very wide and deep one;—or were they labourers as well as Dyke makers?

To Carpenters there was paid £162 14s. 8d., their wages being at the rate of 4d. per day, and their 'twenty-men' 6d. The Masons were paid at the same

rate, a sum of £31 6s. 4d. The Woodcutters received £100 8s. 9d., being paid at the same rate per diem as the Dykers. The Smiths' wages were 4d. a day, and their boys 2d.; the total amount paid to them being £6 5s. 8d., and to Quarrymen £5 5s. A sum of £2 4s. 6d. was also paid to *Carbonarii*, who were I presume Colliers.

The modest sum of £1 9s., being at the rate of 1s. a day, was paid to the engineer or architect. This person, we find from these entries, was RICHARD L'ENGINEUR or Ingeniator, who built the Dee mills and weir at CHESTER, and filled the office of Mayor of that ancient city in 1304. Edward I. evidently superintended in person the building of Flint Castle. It is known that on his first invasion of Wales he crossed the Dee at "Shotwicke Forde," now known as the "Wild Marsh," and pitched his camp at BASINGWEEK, in the latter end of July, 1277. From these entries, it seems clear that he was personally watching the erection of this Castle, for we here find recorded a payment of 3s.:—

"To certain dykers working well for the same days (the 6 days following Sunday in the Feast of the blessed Peter ad vincula, 1st day of August), of the gift of the King."

And again, for the seven days following Sunday, being the 22nd August:—

"To 2 Smiths and their 6 boys going with the King, 17s. 6d."

On the 25th August he was at RUDDLAN, and evidently these Smiths and their boys accompanied him thither.

These entries, I venture to think, establish the fact, hitherto questioned, that King Edward I. was the founder of FLINT Castle.

Town Hall, Flint.

H. TAYLOR.

Queries.

[1616]

A CHESTER TRIAL.

In the "Experiences of a Barrister," a very remarkable Case—"Woodley *versus* Thorndyke"—is related in a piece called "The Second Marriage;" in which Silas Thorndyke figures as a forger and murderer. The author states that the trial took place in CHESTER Assize Courts. Of course the names are fictitious; but are the circumstances of the Case really borne out by facts? I cannot find anything like it in our local annals of crime.

T. CANN HUGHES.

Pembroke College, Cambridge.

[1617] CREWE HALL.

This grand old Hall, which, with the exception of the outer walls, was destroyed by fire on the 2nd of January, 1866, was most faithfully and lovingly restored by its present noble owner, with the professional assistance of Mr. BARRY, the well-known architect, who fortunately possessed careful drawings and details of almost every room in the unfortunate mansion. It was finished and ready for occupation in four years after the fire. I have called Mr. Barry's labours a "restoration," but they were that and something more; for LORD CREWE determined that the work should be effected in the best style of art possible, almost regardless of cost, and in full accord with the advanced taste and elegance that mark the architectural efforts of the present day.

Enough for the moment about the renovated CREWE HALL. My main object to-day is to enquire whether anything, and what, is known of the original designer and builder of the old Hall, which the great lawyer of Elizabeth's and James the First's days caused to be edified on his then lately acquired manor and estate of CREWE? My Query should also extend to any later additions or alterations to that older mansion prior to its lamentable destruction by fire in 1866?

J. WILKINS, B.A.

[1618] A CHESTER PAMPHLET.

I have amongst my Cheshire Scraps what appears to be the Title Page of a 4to pamphlet, thus entitled:—

"Twenty-One PLANS, with EXPLANATIONS, of Different ACTIONS in the WEST INDIES, During the late WAR: By an OFFICER of the ROYAL NAVY, who was present.—CHESTER, Printed by J. Fletcher, for the AUTHOR, MDCCCLXXXIV."

Can any one give a short description of the contents of this volume or pamphlet, as the case may be,—and is it known who the Naval Officer was who thus anonymously rushed into print?

SENEC.

[1619] CHRISTLETON CHURCH.

In 1733, a Brief issued from the crown for a Collection in the churches of certain English counties on behalf of CHRISTLETON Church. What was the necessity that called for this collection,—and do the records of the parish state the amount realised under the royal Brief?

M. O. Y.

Replies.

[1620] CONGLETON SACK AND CAKES.

[No. 800.—October 9, 1878]

As, after nearly three years, no more qualified person has supplied an answer to the Query of "A. DAKYNE" on the above subject, I venture to call his attention to

the following notice from "Nooks and Corners of English Life," by John Timbs:—

"The streets of CONGLETON have an air of antiquity, many of the houses being constructed entirely of timber framework and plaster. The place has long since been famed for its silk-mills, and tagged-leather-laces, called 'Congleton Points.' These however have been outlived by the Sack and Cakes, which have, for ages, figured in the festivities of CONGLETON, eclipsed for a while during the gloomy mayoralty of President BRADSHAW, but happily retained to our own time.

The CONGLETON Cakes are of triangular form, with a raisin inserted at each corner. These have been used at the Grammar School breaking-up for three quarters of a century. They have been the orthodox cakes at the quarterly account meetings of the Corporation for more than a century, and hence are called 'Count Cakes.' It is conjectured that the three raisins represent the Mayor and two Justices, who were the governing body under the Charter of James I. The trio of raisins have also been deemed symbolical of the Trinity. Be that as it may, Congleton has been noted from time immemorial for these cakes, as well as for its gingerbread, and in the Corporation records we find such convivial items as the following:—

1614. Bestowed upon Sir John Byron, one gallon of sack and one gallon of claret, 5s. 8d.

1619. A banquet bestowed upon Sir John Savage, being a gallon of sack and a sugar loaf, 5s.

1627. Bestowed upon my Lord Brereton in wine and beer, 5s.

1633. Bestowed upon the Earl of Bridgewater in wine, sack, and sugar, 8s.

1632. Paid Randle Rode of the Swan, for wine, cake and beer, for a banquet which was bestowed upon the Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, £1 4s. 2d.

Among the recent celebrations, was the hospitable reception given by the Corporation of CONGLETON to the Lord Mayor of London, SIR FRANCIS GRAHAM MOON, Bart., in the year 1855, when the entertainment well represented the ancient festivity. On the Chairman's table lay the gold and silver maces of the borough, and capacious china Corporation bowls full of Sack, flanked by large two-handed silver flagons, by which the Sack was gradually drawn off and circulated amongst the company. On every plate was placed a 'count cake,' and the centres of the tables were covered with delicate cakes and confectionery, among which was pre-eminent the famous 'Congleton gingerbread,' and a profusion of choice fruit. The brewage of the Sack was entrusted to Joseph Sperath, who boasts that he alone possesses the true receipt."

Should any further information be required by your correspondent as to this last-named banquet, I should fancy a reference to the file of some local paper would supply it; for an occurrence so picturesque could not fail to be reported by the Cheshire press.

Cambridge.

T. CANN HUGHES.

[1621] BASINGWICK ABBEY LANDS.

[No. 1139.—May 18, 1880.]

In the 36th Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records, occurs a license to the abbot and convent of Basingwick to "acquire from William de Kirkby three messuages and thirteen acres and three roods of land, together with a plot of land in Flint.—September 10, 1351." (24 & 25 Edw. III., m. 3 (6).)

And again, just two years afterwards, there occurs an "Enrolment of a charter of Randal, Earl of Chester, granting to the monks a salt-pit in Northwich." (26 and 27 Edw. III., m. 3 d. (1).)

The West Kirkby property seems to have been an unlucky possession, for on April 15, 1398, "the abbot gives to William de Kyrkeby, of Chester, Glover, recognizance in £100 to abide the award of William de Stanley, senior, touching the manor of West Kyrkeby." (22 and 23 Richard II.).

What the nature of the dispute or the award was, I am unable to ascertain. J. H.

MAY II, 1881.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

May 13.—Queen Elizabeth's Confirmation Charter to Macclesfield, dated at Westminster	1564
„ 14.—John Finchett-Maddock, Town Clerk of Chester, elected M.P. for Chester City	1832
„ 15.—Land in Old Pig Lane, Runcoorn, purchased to enlarge Burial Ground to Runcoorn Parish Church	1834
„ 16.—The Dutton family's seven years' suit at law finally settled by King Henry VIII.	1534
„ 17.—Lord Capel unsuccessfully attacked Nantwich	1643

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1622] CHESTER RACE MEETING.

The date on which this great Annual Festival was first established on the ROODEY at CHESTER has often been debated, some authorities contending that no greater antiquity than 150 years can be claimed for our local Meeting. The following Document, however, lately met with by me in a volume, entitled "*Grants and Leases*," in the muniment room of the Corporation, is unfortunately undated: but from internal and other evidence, I think it cannot well be later than

the year 1612, thus placing the existence of CHESTER RACES in the reign of James the First beyond all question.

The interesting record runs literally as follows, and would seem to be especially appropriate for the Race-Week number of THE SHEAF:—

"ARTICLES CONCERNING A HORSE RACE.

ARTICLES to be performed for Certain orders towchinge the Runninge of a race for twoe bells, and likewise for a Cuppe to be runne for at the Ringe, vpon Saint George his day, being the three and twentieth of Aprill, as followeth.

"FIRST, it is agreed vpon that the race for the bells, and runninge at the Ringe for the Cuppe, shall be houlden and kepte vpon St. George his day, except it fall out to light either vpon Saturday or Saboath day, Then they shalbe Runne for vpon Mondae next followinge, and the Warninge by the drum' and Cryer shalbe vpon Saturday, or the day next before St. George day, not beinge ye saboath.

"THE BELL.—SECONDLIE, every man that bringeth in his horse for the race shall put in to Runn for the bells, xs., Except him that bringeth in the best bell, Which shall pay but vjs. viijd., and him that bringeth in the second bell, xijs. iiijd. And he that winneth the best bell shall haue twoe partes of the money that is laid downe. And he that winneth the seconde bell shall haue the thirde parte, which is the Residue of the money that is putt in. And euery one that rydeth shall Waye, or be made in weight, iust tenne stone Waight. And to be wayed vpon the Roodey in a paire of Scales, which shall be set vpp neare vnto the house where the Maior and his bretheren standeth.

"THE RINGE.—THIRDLIE, everie one that runneth at the ringe for the Cuppe shall put in ijs. vjd. a man, excepte him that bringeth in the Cuppe, accordinge to his Covenantes by bound at the tyme appointed, whoe shall put nothinge in for three tymes Runninge at the ringe. And whoesoer doth take it the first three tymes shall haue the vse of the Cupp, accordinge to the Covenantes, and see much Money as was put in. And if none doe take it the first three tymes, they shall all loose their money that they put in at the first; and the said money to be given to the Maior for the tyme beinge for the vse of the poore and prisonners of the Northgate. And they all, or as many of them as please to put in newe money, vis., ijs. vjd. euarie man, as before is menco'd, to haue all the last Money that was putt in, and the vse of the Cupp as afore is expressed. Provided allwayes, that he that shall Winne the game shall pay and giue to the prisonners of the Northgate, vs., and to the Clerke for Writinge of their names downe, ijs. vjd.

"FOURTHLIE, they that Winne the bells shall giue to the prisonners in the Northgate, xs., vis., he that winneth the best bell shall giue vjs. viijd., and he that winneth the seconde, xijs. iiijd. if they runne aboue three horses. And if they Runne but three, they shall allowe but vjs. viijd. onelie, to be paid equalie amongst them.

"FIFTEEN, he that Winneth the said bells and Cuppe shalbe bounden to the Maior and Citizens of the Citie to bringe in the said bells and Cupp every yeare, with one or twoe sufficient sureties for the delivey of the said bells (of the same Waight and goodnes as they were When they Receaued them) vpp to the Maior or his deputie for the time beinge, vpon St. George his day, in the Inner Pentice of the said Citie of Chester, before twelue of the Clookes at Noone vpon the same day, beinge the three and twentieth of Aprill, vpon payne of forfeiture of their boundes. Alsoe they shall pay to the Clarke, when they doe enter into bounde, for makinge their boundes, xijd. for every bounde.

"LASTLIE, for givinge of the starte, either Mr. Sheriffes for the time beinge, or Whome Mr. Maior wil appointe. And that noe horses, geldinges, or Mares shall come vpon the Roodey, but onlie those that doe runne, vntill the Race be ended. And alsoe that the ryders shall not offer one to an other any foule play in their ridinge, vpon payne of ymprisonment. And these Articles and orders to be kept and performed vniolated, vpon payne of punishment and forfeiture of their boundes and Conenants, as before is sett downe."

It is clearly enough seen from these Articles, that the Chester Race Bells and Cups were what would be termed in the present day 'Challenge' Cups and Bells, held by the winners for one whole year; they contracting under bond for their safe return to the Mayor and Sheriffs, in time for the Races on the following St. George's Day.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1623]

WALLASEY RACES.

These Races were at one period more aristocratic and popular than even those which have for centuries made the CHESTER ROODEYE so famous in the annals of the Turf. The anecdote relative to James, Duke of Monmouth's exploits on this particular course, is a well-known matter of Cheshire history.

According to a copy of Weatherby's *Racing Calendar Abridged* for 1836, it appears that in the *London Gazette* for February 15, 1672, the following notice appeared:—

"These are to give notice that the Right Honourable CHARLES, EARL OF DERBY, with many other gentlemen of quality within the two counties of Lancaster and Chester, together with the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of LIVERPOOL, have set forth near the said town a five mile course for a Horse Race, which is intended to be run upon the 18th day of March next, and so for ever yearly at the same time: and as it is one of the first grounds

for the length in England, so it will be for one of the most considerable Plates in the nation," &c.

According to Weatherby's *Calendar*, Races were first established at CHESTER in 1729, and the meeting held on the 22nd April. Races were also inaugurated at KNUTSFORD and NANTWICH in August in the same year. But the principal meeting then in Cheshire was at WALLASEY, in Wirral, as appears from the following, under the year 1727:—

"WALLASEY.

On the first Thursday in May, the 'Wallasey Stakes' of 20 guineas each, for five year old horses, 10st. each, four miles, 14 subscribers.

Sir R. Grosvenor's Spot 1

Earl Derby's ch. h. 2

Five others started."

The "Wallasey Stakes" was at this time the most considerable prize in the kingdom, and was established in the following way:—The Dukes of Devonshire, Bridgewater, and Ancaster, the Earl of Derby, Lords Gower, Molyneux, and Barrymore, Sir Richard Grosvenor, Mr. Watkin W. Wynn, Mr. Egerton, Mr. Cholmondeley, and three others, engaged to subscribe 10 guineas a year each for ten years successively, commencing 1723, to be run for on the course at WALLASEY on the first Thursday in May in each year. Every horse starting must have been bred by the proprietor. This Stake ceased to be run upon the Cheshire course in 1732, and was transferred to Newmarket, being still called the "Wallasey Stakes."

PHILO-IPPOS.

It will be seen from the "Original Document" we print this week that Weatherby was too late by more than a century in stating that CHESTER RACES began in 1729. The year 1612 is much nearer the correct date.

EDITOR.

The influential families of this and the adjoining counties have always been great admirers of the sport of Horse-racing. William Webb, the Cheshire historian, writing in 1639, mentions under the head of Wallasey:—

"Here lie those fair sands or plains where the gentry and others oft try the swiftness of their horses, and venture no small sums on the speed thereof."

Only a very few years later than this, and the prize of a BELL is recorded to have been run for by horses on the Roodeye. And about 1683, James, Duke of Monmouth, rides "a Race himself at Wallasey, and won the stakes, which he gallantly presented to the daughter of the Mayor, to whom His Grace had the day previous stood sponsor."

In the *Sporting Magazine* of August and September 1836, it is pointed out that LEASOWE CASTLE is the most ancient building for the purposes of a Racing Stand, that probably exists in the Kingdom. This is supposed to date back to Queen Elizabeth's reign, and to have

been erected by the Darby family, to enable them to witness the sport on the adjoining course, which it commanded from sixteen points of the compass. I doubt whether any country can show such ancient evidence of its love for the sport of Horse Racing.

Warrington.

C. C.

Queries.

[1624] NESTON RACES.

The following curious Hand-bill was found amongst the papers of the late Mr. JOHN HILL, who was for so many years a ruling spirit in connection with the GRAND STAND and RACING COMMITTEES at CHESTER.

It is an extremely quaint and curious placard of soap folio size, and is decorated at the top with a primitive wood-block, which may be taken to represent the Race-course at NESTON, apparently not far from the shore. Three galloways are seen contending for the prize, and seem to be quite close to the river's edge, and just passing the judge's chair: a church is shewn in the background, and another structure not far away.

A smaller woodcut, equally rude in execution, and showing a stand and three high-mettled racers in smart rivalry, forms the initial letter "O" at the commencement of the second line. The text of the bill is as follows:—

"GREAT NESTON RACES.

"ON *Whit-Monday*, the 27th of *May*, 1763, will be run for, A PURSE of FIFTY POUNDS. Four Years old Horses, &c. to carry Eight Stone, and all others to carry Weight for Age.—Subject to Articles.

On *Tuesday*, the 28th, A PURSE of FIFTY POUNDS. Fourteen Hands to carry Nine Stone; all under or over to carry Weight for Inches.—Subject to Articles.

Every Horse, &c. to be shewn and entered at the *Golden Lion*, in GREAT NESTON, on *Friday* before the Days of Running, between Two and Six in the Afternoon; and such Horses, &c. to be kept in the Town 'till the Days of Running, at such Houses as subscribe Five Shillings. An Ordinary at the *Golden Lion* each Race Day, a Cocking each Morning, and a BALL for the Ladies as usual.

All Persons who live out of the Parish of GREAT NESTON that intend to have a Booth to sell any Liquor on the Course, are to pay Five Shillings into the Hands of the Clerks of the Course on the Days of entering the Horses: and such Persons who live in the Parish, that have a Booth, are to pay on that Day 2s. 6d. into the Hands of the Clerks.

N.B. If any Person erects Booths, &c. contrary to the above, will be prosecuted by the Lord of the Manor."

I am unaware how long these Races continued to be held at Neston,—perhaps the publication of the handbill may bring to the front some particulars of this modest Meeting?

G. T.

[1625] THE UNIVERSITY BOAT-RACE.

Now that the excitement of this contest is well over, I should like to introduce the following question to the readers of THE SHEAF. Has Cheshire ever supplied a representative oarsman to either of the great Universities at their annual competition on the Thames?

April, 1881.

LIGHT BLUE.

[1626] CHESTER RACING CUPS.

Are any of these local Racing Cups still in existence at Wynnstay, Eaton, Oulton, Peover, or other ancestral houses of Cheshire and the surrounding counties? Surely they cannot have all been consigned to the melting-pot? Particulars of any such that may have been preserved would be worth recording in THE SHEAF; especially if Chester Races should in the early future, as some folks prophecy, become simply a matter of history.

L. L.

[1627] BOLOGNA THE HARLEQUIN.

In a bundle of Chester old Play-Bills I recently saw on a London bookstall for sale, some six or eight years ago, I remember noticing one in which the above named actor was prominently associated with some London stars on the boards of the old Theatre Royal, at Chester. Can any of your readers give me the date of Bologna's engagement, and the names of the pieces in which he performed?

M. O. Y.

Replies.

[1628] THE CHESHIRE ROUND.

[No. 1470.—January 19.]

I question very much if the smallest trace of this once popular dance now survives in any part of Cheshire. The Rev. Peter Roberts, A.M., Rector of Llanarmon, in his *Cambrian Popular Antiquities*, 1815, p. 45, writes of it in the following terms:—

"Among the remaining traces of the religious ceremonies of the Druids, one appears to exist in the Dance which is so well known, as to be stated by Goldsmith in the *Vicar of Wakefield* as the limit of the accomplishments of the Misses Flamborough, viz.: the *Roundabout*, or, more precisely, the CHESHIRE ROUND.

This is danced by two only, one of each sex;—after leading off into the middle of an imaginary

circle, and dancing a short time opposite to each other, the one strives by celerity of steps in the circumference of the circle to overtake and chase the other round it; the other in the meantime endeavouring to maintain an opposite situation by equal celerity in receding. This Dance has so strong a reference to the motions of the sun and moon, in their approaches and recessions in their apparent courses, as leaves no doubt on my mind that it was originally a sacred dance in honor of those luminaries."

The Cornish historian *Borlase* says,—

"In Cornwall there is a great number of those stone circles, and the name they go by most commonly is that of *dawns mén*, that is the *stone-dance* (or stones where the dance was held). *Dawnee*, in Cornish, signifies a dance, and in the circular figure (of which we are now treating, there is a very ancient dance, or play, still practised among the Cornish,—'tis called *Trematheeves*;—but what the name signifies he has not explained. From his account of the dance it seems to be the same, or nearly so, as *THE CHESHIRE ROUND*; and, perhaps, the lesser stone circles were, in general, intended merely to inclose or limit the spaces for such dances, or other amusements."

Dr. Rimbault, than whom a better authority on what we may call the archaeology of British Music has not been known in our days, writes thus of *THE CHESHIRE ROUND* in the 1st volume of *Notes and Queries*, 1850, p. 456:—

"This is a Dance peculiar to the county from whence it takes its name. The musical notes of 'The Cheshire Round' may be seen in *The Dancing Master*, 1721, vol. i, and in Edward Jones' *Cheshire Melodies*. It was sometimes danced 'longways for as many as will' (as described in *The Dancing Master*), but more frequently by one person. A handbill of the time of William III. states, 'In Bartholomew Fair, at the Coach-House on the Pav'd stones at Hosier Lane-End, you shall see a Black that dances the *Cheshire Rounds* to the admiration of all spectators.' Michael Root and John Sleepe, two o'ever caterers of 'Bartlemy,' also advertise 'a little boy that dances the *Cheshire Round* to perfection.'"

From the former of my two quotations, your correspondent "L. L." will gather how impossible it will be to name the inventor of this Dance, which the old Rector of Llanarmon thinks *he* can trace back to the time of the Druids!

H. S. A.

[1629] EPIGRAMS WRITTEN AT CHESTER BY
DEAN SWIFT.

[No. 1489, 1521.—February 2, 23.]

Doctor WILLIAM COWPER, of Overleigh, Mayor of Chester in 1754, a fair poet and excellent local antiquary to boot, is responsible for the statement that the versatile Dean Swift usually took up his quarters at the

Yacht, then one of the principal Chester inns. As "G. H." has copied his Epigram, relative to the Chester clergy, direct from Swift's *Works*, no doubt that is a more correct version of the distich than the one usually printed in the local *Guide Books*.

In neither of the three quoted Epigrams is the Dean over complimentary to Chester, but mere compliment was never very much his forte. Yet, while he launches out valiantly at the stand-alooft clergy, who looked no doubt a little askance at so volatile a dignitary; and though mine host of the *Yacht* too had all his failings dished up in the course of a dozen lines; and although the citizens generally don't seem to have won his high esteem; it was then Swift's experience, as it is still that of all visitors to our old ramparts, that (as he puts it),

"The Walls of this town
Are full of renown
And strangers delight to walk round 'em."

T. HUGHES.

[1630] INFANGTHEOF AND UTFANGTHEOF.

[No. 1540.—March 9]

Your fair correspondent "LUCY D.T.," and your readers generally, may be interested to read the following explanation of the very ancient legal terms at the head of this Reply. I copy what I send you from a valuable old Cheshire MS. Common-Place Book in my possession, written in the 17th century:—

"INFANGTHEOF.—They who had this Privilege in Cheshire claim'd it after this manner. If any thief was taken w'thin the Lordship *cu' Manuopere*. At ye suit of any, by ye Lord of ye Soil,—a day shall be appointed w'thin three days after his taking, for his trial. And if he will put himself on ye Inquest, it shalbe admitted; and if he be found Culpab'e, judgm't shall pass on him according to law, & he to be hang'd on ye gallows of ye L'd of ye Soil. But, if in ye first Court, He objects against all ye Jury except one or two, Another Court was to be held; and then, if he will not put himself on ye Inquest, He shalbe sent to ye Goal of Chester *cum manuopere* w'th the Indictm't; & there, if he be convict, He shalbe delivered to ye Seneschall of ye Lord, to do Execution w'thin ye Liberty of ye s'd Lord."

"UTFANGTHEOF.—Hereby ye Lord claim'd y't, if any of his Tenants or men was convict for any Fact done out of th'r Liberty, before ye Minister of ye Lord Earl, He shalbe delivered to ye Seneschall of ye Lord, to do Execution w'thin ye Liberty."

In most of the Returns to the Writs *Quo Warranto* served upon so many of the Lords of Manors in Cheshire in the reigns of Henry VII. and VIII, the privilege of *Infangtheof* and *Outfangtheof* is almost always insisted upon by the local lords, and was manifestly regarded as a franchise not to be surrendered without a deadly struggle.

J. WILKINS, B.A.

From Wharton's *Law Lexicon* it appears that INFANGTHEF was a privilege attaching to the lords of certain manors, to judge and punish any thief taken within their fee.—*Anc. Inst. Eng.*

OUTFANGTHEF is described as a liberty or privilege, in the ancient common law, whereby a lord was enabled to call any man dwelling in his manor, and taken for felony in another place out of his fee, to judgment in his own court.

R. WILBRAHAM JONES.

The Temple.

MAY 18, 1881.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- May 18.—Lord Robert Grosvenor, M.P. for Chester city (now Lord Ebury), married Charlotte Arbuthnot, daughter of Henry Wellesley, first Lord Cowley..... 1831
- „ 19.—Wesleyan Grand Bazaar at the Music Hall, Chester, opened by the Duke (then Marquis) of Westminster, in aid of the New Chapel in City Road 1873
- „ 22.—Lord Chief Justice Arden created Baron Alvanley of Alvanley 1801
- „ 24.—Sir Henry Middleton, Knight, the celebrated Chester Traveller, died 1613
- J. H.

Original Documents.

[1631] THE PARRYS, OF CWM, CO. DENBIGH.
(See No. 1603)

RICHARD PARRY, BISHOP OF ST. ASAPH.

The interesting note which your correspondent "K." has added to the Funeral Procession of RICHARD PARRY, of CWM, will have excited sufficient interest among your readers to make the present very long communication acceptable to them; particularly as the greater part of it consists of original historical matter which, it is believed, has not before appeared in print, and which relates to a person of no ordinary importance.

RICHARD PARRY was born at Ruthin in Denbighshire, about 1560, being the son and heir of John Parry. He was educated at Westminster, elected student of Christ Church College, Oxford, in 1579, took the degrees in Arts, Holy Orders, and became school-master of Ruthin. On 24th December, 1592, he was collated Chancellor of Bangor Cathedral, and in 1599 he proceeded D.D. On 11th April, 1599, being styled S.T.P., he was instituted Dean of Bangor. On 19th

October, 1604, he was elected Bishop of St. Asaph, the appointment being confirmed 29th December; and he was consecrated at Lambeth on the following day, receiving the temporalities 5th January, 1604-5. He died at Diserth, in Flintshire, 26th September, 1623,* and was buried at St. Asaph Cathedral.

According to the note which prefaces the "Order of the Funerall," written by RANDER HOLME, the funeral solemnities seem to have taken place after the body was laid in the earth.

The following is an abstract of Bishop PARRY's Will:—

9 Sept 1616. "I Richard by God his permission B'p of S'te Asaphe,"—"my bodie to bee buried either in the Cathedrall Church of Sainte Asaphe, or the parishe Church of S'te Peter in Ruthin, if it shall please God to call f r me neere either of the said places; and it is my desire that if it please God that I dye neere Ruthin or S'te Asaph, and that it shalbee very probable that my father his corps may w'thout offence bee removed from S'te Asaph, where it now lyeth, it is I saye my desire that his corps bee removed, and interred with myne, neere my deere mothers bones in the parishe Church of Ruthin: yf it please God I dye in any remote place from Ruthin and S'te Asaphe, Then I bequeath my bodye to bee buried in the next Cathedrall or parishe Church, or Church yard, where it shall please God to call for me." "Item, whereas my good cosen Mr. Ryce Williams, of Eyarth in the County of Denbigh, hath with my monie purchased some copiehold land in Moreton in the Lo'p of Bromesfeld and yale of Mr. Gerrard Eylon, and hath passed some graunte thereof to my three yongest daughters, viz't Anne, Margaret, and Jane, in which grante powre is left vnto mee to alter that vse" &c., "Now for that I doe otherwise proryde for my said daughters, Anne, Margaret, and Jane, I doe hereby make the saide grante voyde; and soe farr as lyeth in me give and bequeath the said lande vnto my wedded wife, for the space that my sonne Richard Parry shall not fulfille accomplishe the age of two and twentie yeares; my said wife during the said terme paying his ma'tie his rent" &c., and "paying vnto my sonne Richard Parry tenn poundes quarterley for his mainteynance, or otherwise mainteyning him to the good liking of my overseers. Item, after my sonne Richard Parry hath accomplished the age of two and twentie years, I give" &c. "all my right and interest in the said lands vnto my sonne Richard Parry and his heires and assignes:" "to my sonne Richard Parry, and to his heires forever," a Tenement wherein one Robert Griffith dwells, purchased of Mr. Francis Lloyde of Hardwicke and Mr. Cornelius Manley; he paying either £100 "for the purchasing of lande towards the mainteynance of a poore scholl'r in Jesus Colledge in Oxford; or paying yearlie" £6 "vnto Edward Edwardes now scholler of the said colledge; and successively to that

* In Le Neve's *Fasts* there is a note to the effect that his death is said to have taken place circa Oct. 3."

poore scholler that hath bene by me during my life, or shalbee by the Principall and fellowes of the said Colledge after my death, elected out of the Dioeces of S^te Asaphe or the towne of Ruthin for ever" &c.—"Item, whereas I have geven my basoon and Ewer of silver vnto my sonne *Edward Parry*," I give &c. £40 "vnto my said sonne *Richard* for the buying of the said plate;"—"vnto my said sonne *Edward*" £60 more "to bee by his mother bestowed vpon a tenement or parcell of Lande for the benefit of my said sonne *Edward*:"—"all my Landes and tenementes in the parish of S^te Asaph vnto *Gwen* my wife, while shee liveth sole; and after her decease or second marriage, to my said sonne *Edward* and to his heires for ever. And in like manner to my said wife and sonne *Edward* as aforesaid, I bequeath the rent out of the tenement of *Piers Griffith Lloyd* of Crookinan, now assured vnto my daughter *Jane*:"—"Item, in lieue of the said rent" &c. "I give and bequeath vnto the said *Jane*" £800—"vnto my daughter *Anne*" £800, and to my daughter *Margaret*" £800—"to each of my five daughters and my two yonger sonnes a peece of plate, the value whereof I leave to the discretion of my executrix:"—"vnto my brother *Godfrey* 40s. and to my brother *Thomas* 40s. which I lent him and to my brother *Henry Parry*, Clarke, my Tremelius, and Junius his bible, Calvins his Institutions, a Latine concordance, and Beleonius in two volumes:"—"vnto my good Cousen Mr. *Ryce Williams* all such some or somes of monie as I may lawfully demand of him, if I may anie, and xxij. in gold to make him a ringe;"—"to my brother in Law Mr. *Edward Price* xxijs in gold to make him a ring;"—"to my sister in law Mrs. *Jane Davies* xxijs in gold to make her a ring;"—"all my bookes vbestowed I give and bequeathe to my sonne *William Parry*"—Residue of Goods &c., "vnto my wife *Gwen Parry*" for the payment of my debts, if any, funeral expenses and education, preferment, &c. of my children unpreferred:"—"All my lands and tenements in Iscewood, and in the parish of Coome, I doe to the same purposes give and bequeath vnto my said wief during her natural life, and her continuing widowe; and after her decease to my sonne *Richard Parry* and to his heires forever, charged with soe much as shalbee short of the porcions of my three youngest daughters, soe that it bee not above 800*li*. in the whole:"—"my said wife my sole executrix:"—"my said brother in law Mr. *Edward Price*, my said Cousen Mr. *Ryce Williams*, and my said brother *Henry*, to bee overseers—Dated 22 Aug. 1621—Witnesses "*John Ireland*, Cle: *John Parry*." "I doe this xvijth of September Anno Dⁿi 1623 charge my sonne *Richard*, and my Landes in Isceod and Coome, with the some of "£800" to be paid as soone as, out of the profite of those Landes after the decease or marriage of my said wief, they may bee leavyed" viz. "to my daughter *Anne*" £100, "to my daughter *Margaret*" £100, "to my daughter *Jane*" £100, and the remaining £500 "to bee equally devyded betwene all my children and grandchildren that shalbee living at the time

of the levying of the said 500*li* or anie parte thereof, for somuch as shalbee leavyed. Nevertheless if my sonne *Richard* doe live in the feare of god, and forbears all riott and excesse, my meaning is that, after the death or marriage of his mother, *Richard* shall enioye my said Landes in Isceod and Coome, without anie charge of the said 800*li*. or anie part thereof."—"Item, whereas I have covenanted to stand seised in my little landes in Ruthin, land to the vse of my sonnes *Richard* and *William*; my meaning is that after my decease my wief shall enioye the whole thereof during her life and widowehood" &c., "and after her decease or marriage, I give and bequeath soe much of the land as I stand seised to the vse of my sonne *Richard*, to my said sonne and to his heires forever: and soe much as I stand seised to the vse of my sonne *William*, I give and bequeath, after the death or marriage of my wife, vnto my sonne *William* and his heires forever."—No witnesses given.

Proved by the said executrix, 20 February 1623-4. (Prerogative Court of Canterbury.—9 Byrde.)
Highfields, Thelwall. J. PAUL RYLANDS.

Notes.

[1632] PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION OF CHESTER, CITY AND COUNTY. (Continued from No. 1604.)

Parliament (1656).

Summoned to meet at Westminster, 17 September, 1656. Dissolved 4th February, 1657-8.

No Returns found.

Browne Willis writes:—

"Anno 8 Charles II.

Parliament Sept. 17, 1656.

This Parliament, consisting of the persons returned for the several Counties and Corporations within the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and the Dominions thereunto belonging, was assembled Sept. 17, 1656, and continued to June 26, 1657, when it was adjourned to January 20, and after fifteen days Session dissolved Feb. 4 following, 1657-8.

EDWARD BRADSHAW, Esq."

Pawley gives the same return, and calls this Parliament "The Convention that establish'd Cromwell."

EDWARD BRADSHAW, Esq., mercer, was the eldest son of Roger Bradshaw, of Aspall, Lancashire, by his third wife, the first having been a daughter of Dr. William Downham, Bishop of Chester. He was Sheriff of Chester in 1636, and was elected Mayor, upon the death of Robert Wright, in 1647, during his year of office, and again filled the civic chair in 1653. He married at St. Peter's Church, Chester, December 5th, 1631, Susan Bleasde, daughter and heiress of Alderman

Christopher Blease, Sheriff of Chester in 1623, and Mayor in 1629, who died October 31, 1651, and was buried at St. Peter's Church. By her he had 12 children, the 9th being James, baptised at St. Peter's 4th July, 1647, who was knighted and settled at Kirby in Yorkshire: his second wife was Mary, the relict of Mr. Christopher Love, by whom he had 7 children. He died 31st October, 1671, in the 67th year of his age, and was buried, as above said, the 7th of November following, when according to his tombstone he left five surviving children.

He had a daughter Katherine, who was born during his shrievalty, and baptised 10th September, 1637. His son Christopher was baptised Sept. 3, 1648, during his short tenure of office as Mayor, upon the death of Mr. Wright; and he also had a daughter Elizabeth, born 24th January, 1653, during his second tenure of office, and in the Parish Registers of St. Peter's he is mentioned as the "Right Worth'ly Mayor."

Under 1663, there is an entry of the death of "Mary, wife to Mr. Edward Bradshaw, mercer, and Mrs. Mary Davies, died both the 14th May, and were buried both in one grave, 1663."

Ledsham.

E. M.

Queries.

[1633] CHESHIRE MATHEMATICIANS.

Amongst our formidable list of Cheshire Worthies, I should fancy devotees of the science of mathematics must have place. Could any reader of your columns find time so give us a short account of any who have, being natives of the county, attained to eminence in this branch of study at either of our great Universities?

CANTAB.

[1634] THOMAS HARRISON, THE REGICIDE.

In *Notes and Queries*, lately, appeared a notice of this man, but it did not treat of his place of birth.

According to some writers, he was born at Newcastle-under-Line, but Clarendon says at NANTWICH. Can this point be cleared up, and tradition and doubt be set finally at rest?

J. H.

[1635] CHESHIRE TRIALS.

I should feel very much obliged if any contributor to THE SHEAF could furnish me with a list of remarkable Cheshire Trials, such I mean as have been separately printed. I refer more particularly to such as have been judicially heard in Chester, though any relating to the locality at all would be acceptable. I limit my enquiry to important trials prior to the year 1820.

MARTLET.

Replies.

[1636] EBBING AND FLOWING WELL.

[Nos. 1462, 1509.—January 19, February 16.]

"A WOODMAN," when propounding his Query at No. 1469, gives us a modern version of Higden's notice of this Well at Rhuddlan, which he (Higden) includes amongst his *Wonders of Wales*. But as it is always advisable, when it can be done, to quote an author's own words for an historic fact, I will give the monkish chronicler of Chester's stanzas in the original Latin, and append thereto two of the earliest English translations known to exist in our day. First we will listen to old Ranulph himself, who died about 1366:—

"Ruthleland in confinibus
Tegengil est fons modicus,
Qui non marinis moribus,
Die bis undat fluctibus,
Sed undis crebro deficit
Undis vicissim sufficit."

Trevisa, Chaplain to Lord Berkley, who flourished within half a century of Higden's time, translates the above as follows:—

"In Ruthlond by Tygentil [Tegengel]
There is a litel wellle
Yat floweth nought alway,
As ye see, twies a day;
But sometyne it is drye
And somtyme al ful vp to ye yghe."

A slightly later translation (Harl. MS. 2261, in the British Museum, puts the record thus:—

"Also there is a lytelle wellle on the cootes of Ruthlande, Tegengil by name, whiche dothe not floo and refloo in the manner of a see, but otherwhile water habundethe there, and otherwhile hit wontethe water."

The query of "A WOODMAN,"—"Where is this particular spring?" still remains unanswered. Surely the site of the Well must be known?

T. HUGHES.

[1637] BULL-BAITING IN CHESHIRE.

[No. 1483.—Dec. 17, 1880]

I am rather inclined to believe that the last time the Bull-ring at the Chester High Cross was used was in 1803, as, in the *Chester Chronicle* for Oct. 14 of that year, I find the editor thus moralising:—

"It gives us much pleasure to state that the Magistrates of this city have publicly forbidden the savage custom of Bull-baiting. Should the injunction be disregarded, we trust the law will be enforced with due severity."

The admirers of the brutal sport seem to have had a healthy dread of the magisterial authority, for in the same local paper the following week, the Editor adds,—

"We rejoice that this City has not at the wonted season [I suppose Mayor Choosing Day?] been made the scene of Bull-baiting, with its attendant horrors. The order of the Magistrates has been properly respected, and the inhabitants may now congratulate each other that the stigma of such shameful spectacles no longer attaches to them."

The evil, however, was not entirely got rid of,—only put a little further in the background; for BOUGHTON HEATH became after that the refuge of the Bull-baiters, and I myself remember an occurrence of the sort there in my boyhood, not very far now from 50 years ago.

CAMBRO-BRITON.

[1638] BOW CHURCH BELLS AND GEORGE PALYN.

[Nos. 1495, 1602.—Feb. 9, April 20.]

I am informed from St. Mary-le-Bow that the name of Palyn is not on the bells there, nor can it be connected with their history. Dame Dyonis Williamson was a principal contributor to them in the sum of £1,000. But George Palyn is recorded to have been buried there on October 16th, 1610; and the £100 which he is said to have left to the parish, the lectureship which he founded there, and his many other noble benefactions, recorded by Fuller in his *Worthies*, may well have given occasion to the saying that "Cheshire made Bow bells to ring."

With regard to the two benefactions quoted by Fuller, as affecting the parish of WRENBURY, I know nothing of the £70 left "to the Church and poor of Wrenbury (to buy them gowns)." No such bequest seems to have come into possession of the parish officials, so far as I can learn at present. But the £200 was duly received, and continues to be appropriated to parish uses; not, however, for the poor generally, but principally for the education of poor children. In the Wrenbury Church chest is an extract on paper from the Registry of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, reciting how George Palyn, citizen and girdler of London, died not many days after October 11th, 1610; and by the second codicil to his will, then altered, left £200 to the churchwardens and parishioners of Wrenbury, to produce £10 yearly for "a virtuous and learned schoolmaster" for ever, on condition of his freely educating a certain number of the poorest children of the parish; and the residue of the profit of the said £200 to the parish poor for ever; 16 substantial inhabitants to be bound to the Girdlers' Company to that effect, and for those purposes, upon receipt of the said £200. His will was proved November 12th, 1610.

At the present time our educational bequests produce, I believe, about £11 5s. 6d. annually. That is the sum which is now expended by the Trustees of the Wrenbury Charities; and about 25 poor children derive benefit from it in each year.

Mr. Palyn's codicil above-mentioned states that in the will which he then altered he had intended a legacy of £200 "for the purchasing of lands to the yearly value of £13 6s. 8d., to be paid (by the Company of Girdlers) to the poor of the parish of Wrenbury." This may perhaps account for the £70 mentioned by Fuller, which would have produced annually about £3 6s. 8d.

In our Parochial Records, George Palyn is described as a "native of Wrenbury" and "citizen of London." His family was here for generations, from the beginning of the Wrenbury Registers in 1593 down to recent years; and the name survives still in the neighbourhood, if not in the parish.

Between 1593 and 1610 (which was the year of his death), I find three baptisms and six burials of the Palins at Wrenbury; and a good pedigree of the family might no doubt be compiled from the Church Books. In 1614, Thomas Palyn and Henry Palyn witnessed a lease of land in WRENBURY FRITH, now and from ancient times belonging to the poor.

Their residence was in the Smeaton Wood part of the parish, where there has been a great demolition of old houses, and decrease of population, since the time of James I.

Wrenbury.

T. W. N.

[1639] THE CHESTER AND HOLYHEAD RAILWAY.

[No. 1576.—Apr. 6, 1881]

The following forms a reply to the latter part of the query, which relates to this old prophecy about crossing the Menai Straits:—

"Three miles by railway will land us at Menai Bridge Station, and as so many and such excellent descriptions abound, giving every possible detail connected with these latter-day wonders of Wales—the bridges—we need scarcely occupy much time in describing them. If we may believe many enthusiastic Welshmen, crossing the straits by means of a bridge, and at a headlong speed, was foretold ages ago by a Welsh bard and seer. Mr. Borrow, who, as we have seen before, was a somewhat gushing tourist, fully believed in the prophecy, and he turns the Welsh Englyn containing it into English verse, thus:—

I got up in Mona as soon as 'twas light,
At nine in Old Chester my breakfast I took;
In Ireland I dined, and in Mona ere night,
By the turf fire sat, in my own ingle nook.

All this seems plainly to indicate "Wild Irishman on the brain" of a bard some centuries ago; but more prosaic Welshmen say that Robyn Dhu, the bard in question, living near Holyhead, in a visit to the town one day found two vessels waiting for cargo; one was called "The Chester"—in which with the captain he breakfasted; and the other was known as the "Ireland," and on board of her he dined; and having accomplished the two events he walked home to his own turf fire-side, not having left Mona (Anglesey) at all, or, perhaps, been a dozen miles from his home."

The extract is taken from the chapter headed "With the Wild Irishman," in the *Gossiping Guide to Wales*, by Askew Roberts.

NEMO.

[1640] ST. JOHN'S CHURCH BELLS.

[No. 1614—May 4.]

The inscriptions upon the Bells as given in THE SHEAF, shew that the first 6 bells were cast three years before the 6 bells in NANTWICH Church, which are by the same celebrated Gloucester bell founder. The inscriptions are similar.

Our's run thus:—

1. PROSPERITY TO THE TOWN & PARISH. A.R. 1713.
 2. PEACE & GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD. A.R. 1713.
 3. ABE. RUDHALL CAST US ALL. 1713.
 4. GOD SAVE THE CHURCH & QUEEN ANN. A.R. 1713.
 5. PROSPERITY TO ALL OUR BENEFACTORS. A.R. 1713.
- Tenor. THO: TALBOT, HUMPHREY HAYLES. CHURCH. WARDENS. 1713.

The Tenor bell is about 3ft. 8in. diameter, and we are assured its weight is about 15 cwt. The note is F.

It would be interesting to know if there were 8 bells at St. JOHN's in 1710, and, if so, why the two last were added in 1733: and, if the peal was changed from 6 to 8 in 1733, whether one of the others was recast to suit the alteration of key.

Nantwich Rectory.

FOSTER G. BLACKBURN.

MAY 25, 1881.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- May 25.—Colonel Dukinfield's forces defeated at Stockport by Prince Rupert..... 1644
- „ 27.—Tarporeley Parish Church reopened after Restoration and extension, by Dr. Jacobson, Lord Bishop of Chester ... 1869
- „ 28.—Sir Thomas Grosvenor, bart., M.P. for Chester, dying at Naples, was brought home, and buried at Eccleston..... 1733
- „ 29.—Edward, Prince of Wales (afterwards Edward I., grants Charter to Macolesfield Corporation, dated at Guildford 1261
- „ 30.—The Brunswick Wesleyan Chapel, Macolesfield, opened for service..... 1824
- „ 31.—William Maisteron and the parishioners of Nantwich granted a Faculty, by Chancellor Gastrell, to build a south gallery in Nantwich Church... 1727

J. H.

Original Documents.

[1641] MR. LANE'S CHESTER MIRACLE.

While at Cambridge the other day, I was permitted by the courteous University Librarian, Mr. H. Bradshaw, M.A., to overhaul certain of the MSS. under his official charge. Of a good number of them I took verbatim transcripts, and shall hope to see them all ultimately in print in THE SHEAF.

I present to-day the first portion of a very curious story, which it would appear from the MS containing it was put into type in 1564, but of which, I much fear, there is now no copy in existence. I call it a very curious story, and so it is, as narrated by the author; but modern science has, I dare say, long since deprived it of its original claim to be deemed a miracle.

The MS., as preserved in the Common-place Book Es, 12-18, p. 152, in the University Library, runs thus:—

"The Copeye of a letter Discribinge the Wonderfull worke of god in deliveringe a mayden within the Cittie of Chest'r from a horrible kynde of torment And sicknes the 10 of februarie, 1564.

Meter in praise of the act of m'r lane

' O England then, behold a fact most Rare
Shewed forth by god in this thy natyve land,
Sythe by god's worde, thou settest so little care.
god, god I saye, beginnes to stretche his Hand
as in this booke thou mayst well vnderstand
A mayde but yonge, late w'th great yll possesest
but nowe by god she is agayne releast.'

Imprinted at London, by John Awdley,
dwelling in lytle brytayne strete, beyond
aldersgate, 23 of m'che, 1564.

' To his very frend m'r John Di.

Aft'r hartye salutations, lettinge all other matt'rs passe, theis chiefe are to signifie vnto you, that here of late hath happened a wonderfull cure of a mayde w'thin this Cittie, wrought by gods power in his faithfull minist'r and preacher of Ih'us christe, m' Lane, to th' advauncem't of god's glorye, and to the greate m'valynge of all those inhabitinge in thes partes.

And least the same should be mysreported, or the wicked suffred to wrest them to abyse gods preachers; and for that the thinge is so rare and notable, that it should not be kept from the posteritie, I haue therefore sent you the whole true discourse there described with thands of S'r Will'm Calu'ley, knight, Richard Hurleston, esq', and my owne. I could haue had en'ye man here to haue donne the lyke, but consyderinge we haue had good p'offe, thone w'th thother, I thought this shall suffice, prayinge you to put the same in printe. from the Cittie of Chest'r, the 15 of m'che, 1564,
you' frend

JOHN FISHER.

Havinge E'd you' lett's, & therbye vnderstandinge aswell what brute hath lately happened in you' p'tes, cons'ninge the delin'ance of a woman there w'thin the Cittie of Chest'r from a most monstrous & horrible kynd of torment and disease, as also howe desirous you are to learne the truth therof, I am contented in gratifenge this you' Request to signifie herein as is for truth knowen and accepted. —the storie, therefore, was this.

Anne Mylner, a mayden of thage of xvij yeres, dought'r to Randolph mylner, & brought vp in her fathers house, w'thin the brydge strete of the same Cittie, went the xvijth daye of october last to brynge her fathers kyne in to the fields; and at her returne, comyng in the hys waye nere to the Cittie, was sodenlye taken with greate feare, & thought that she sawe a whyght thinge compassinge her Rownd aboute, And so, amased, cam' vnto her fathers howse; & in the next morninge felt her self greved & very sore in all the parts of her bodye, w'ch so encreased that she was enforced to kepe her bed, beinge verye sicke; and duringe the space of v dayes then next Insvinge, dyd not take any kynd of bodelye sustentance (as her parents haue sondrye tymes declared).

She had her ffytt and traunce almost from howre to howre, and had nen' above three howres rest in the day & nyght, neither dyd eate duringe the tyme of her sicknes, but once in eche 24 howres, and then most comonlye a little quantitie of a bread & chese, w'ch not w'tstandinge was donne w'th wonderfull snatchinge and Rashnes. the man'r of her disease & sicknes was such, as hereaft'r touchinge the tyme of her cure shalbe more p'ticulerlye declared, that vnto her owt of all p'tes of the Cittie repaire of verye many was made; yea, in so much that aft'r M' John peries, one of the canons of the cathedrall church of Chest'r, and reader of the divinitie lecture there, w'th diu'se p'sons of reputacon, had sene the mayden, he w'th his awditors in December last, at thend of his lecture, kneelinge vpon their knees, made especial prayer to god for her delin'ance.

After this it chaunced M' John Lane, late fellowe of ohrists Colede, in the vniv'sitie of Cambridge, & nowe a famous and godlye preacher of the gospell of J'h'us ohriste, w'thin the Countie of Chest'r, beinge at the howse of S'r Hugh Cholm'ley, knight, & comyng from thence vnto torp'ley to preache, at the request of Raffe Done, esquire, about the xxjth of Januarie last, mett there w'th twoe men of the said Cittie, thone beinge a nere neighbor to the wofull woman: who then, Amongst other talke, demanded of M' Lane whether there were not Sum' possessed with spretes as in tymes past; and for confirmation herof spake of the said mayden, and alledged the horriblenes of her torments to be such at the tyme of her traunce as it could argue nothinge els, but that she was possessed with Sum' spyrite, And further said that she had remayned in that myserable plight 15 or 16 wekes.

And, as I suppose, havinge hard howe it is well knowen to diu'se credible p'sons in thes p'tes what

rare & singuler remedye god hath wrought by M' Lane to some that sustayned of late no small decaye of mynde & memorye; or els, beinge of that religion, as in thes dayes seke myracles to conferme gods worde, desyred hym, at his next comyng to the Cittie of chest'r, to se the tormented mayden, & they would bringe hym vnto her.

Mr. Lane then Condescendinge to their request; & at his next repare vnto the said Cittie, lodged in the howse of S'r Will'm Calu'ley, knight, where on' frydaye beinge the xvijth of februarie last, at w'che tyme the Assyse was holden at chest'r, mett agayne by occasion w'th the said twoe men; who aft'r they had putt him in remembrance of his p'mys, & had disclosed the man' of the maydens torment to S'r Will' Calu'ley w'th diu'se others then desirous to see the mayden, went all together & brought M' Lane vnto the sayd Mylnors howse to see the mayden.

And then to him vnkowne, about twoe of the clooke in the aft'r noone of the same xvijth daye of februarie, & therefyndinge the mayden in her traunce aft'r her accustomed man', lyenge in a bed w'thin the house, her eyes halff shutt, halff open, lookinge as she had ben agaste, nen'r movinge either eye or eye lyd, her teeth sumthinge open w'th her tonge doblinge betwene, her face somewhat Redd, her heade as heavye as lead to lyft at, she laye styll as a stone, & felinge her pulse it beate w'th as good measure as if she had ben in p'fect heath. And in this sorte beholdinge her, welmost the iijth p'te of an howre, her belye began to move, swellinge vp & down, somtyme beneath her chest, somtyme vpp to the throte in such a vehemence that a man would haue thought she would haue burst.

Then sodaynlye she lyfteth herself vpp in her bed, bendinge backwardes in such order, that welmost her head & her feete mett, fallyng downe somtyme on the one syde, somtyme on thother, but Rysinge agayne so sodenly, that the beholders could not Imagin howe it might be possible, so quicklye she could w'thout ayde of hand cast her self, her bellye beinge vpward, in to the forme of an hoope.

T. HUGHES.

(To be continued in our next.)

[1642]

THE PARRYS OF CWM.

RICHARD PARRY, BISHOP OF ST. ASAPH.

(Continued from No. 1613.)

The order of the funerall of the Right Reverend Rich. Parry, bishopp of St. Asaph, buried at St. Assaph in Sept., 1623,—his body was buried before.

24 poore people 2 & 2 w'th penoells

7 yeomen in black ootes

the quiresters & singing men

John David Robt. Edwards

Henry Conway Tho. Carter

Rowland lloyd Ed. Jo. ap Rees

Edw. hughes Hugh Thomas

Mr. Jo. Will'ms Mr. Cornell

Mr. Hugh parry Mr. Rich. Greene

Mr. griff'd'd. lloyd Mr. Rees Will'ms
 Mr. Jo. Edwards Mr. Ed. pulston
 Mr. Docter price Docter Goodier
 Docter Dauis Docter lloyd
 the hearse adorned w'th scutious
 carried by theis ministers
 Mr. Rouland Enans Mr. Robt. foulkes
 Mr. Euan Morgan Mr. Gabrell parry
 the 4 banner roubles carried by
 Mr. Tho. parry the first ma[t]oh
 Mr. Godfrey parry the second mach
 Mr. hen. parry the 3 mach
 Mr. Ed. price the last Impaled oote
 Mr. Rich. parry cheife mornor, alone
 assistants
 Mr. Will'm parry Mr. Edw. parry
 Mr. Wm. Thomas Mr. Jo. pulston
 Mrs. Anne, Mrs. Margt., Mrs. Jane parry
 frends and wall willers not in black.

The arms of the Bishop were, *Gules, on a bend Argent, a lion passant Sable*; the "pencells," which were of the colours of the arms, and the "scutious," were afterwards used for decorating the heavy-looking hearse of state, covered with black cloth, which was placed over the grave in the Cathedral. The other banners were armorial, and generally represented the alliances of the family of the deceased: in this instance one of them, "the last impaled oote," carried by Mr. Edward Price, would display the official arms of the see of St. Asaph (*Sable, two keys in saltire Argent, the dexter surmounted by the sinister*) impaling the Bishop's paternal coat-of-arms given above.

The will is copied from the original in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, and the Funeral Procession from Harleian MS. 2129.

Highfields, Thelwall.

J. PAUL RYLANDS.

Notes.

[1643] ST. JOHN'S CHURCH PORCH, CHESTER.

I am delighted to find that an excellent photograph of the fine Old English Porch, once so great an ornament and distinction to this unfortunate Church has, since the fall of the tower, been discovered among the archives of a local publisher. The photograph must, from certain architectural evidences it presents, be not far from 20 years old, but is perhaps all the more interesting and valuable on that account. I notice for instance that it exhibits the old clock face which at that period occupied, I will not quite say adorned, the north front of the adjoining tower; and that the tablet, inserted in the modern repairs at the top of the old Porch, shows the following letters inscribed thereon:—

E. B. } C.W.
 R. L. } 1799.

These were the initials of the Churchwardens who in the year recorded repaired the porch, viz., Edward Repington, shoemaker, and Ralph Lowe, baker.

This tablet occupied exactly the spot upon which the whole weight of the ruined tower mainly fell; and yet, though the arch was not only crushed in, and many of its stones reduced literally to powder, this little record of churchwardenly zeal has just been discovered beneath the rubbish perfectly uninjured, and now lies among some more ancient sculptured stones on the north side of the church-yard. I am glad to see that the authorities are taking good care of these interesting architectural fragments.

G. T.

Queries.

[1644] TALBOT INN, WARRINGTON.

Reading the other day a back number of the *Building News* for Nov. 29, 1878, I found the above Inn mentioned, as existing in Sankey-street, with the date 1427 carved on the door lintel.

Is this lintel, with its date, still remaining intact? How long have the premises been the "Talbot," and what are its architectural features and previous history?

Most important question of all, can the date given above be possibly correct? J. H.

[1645] DOGGET, THE ACTOR.

I fancy I recollect seeing the name of this donor of the far-famed Coat and Badge, used in some connection with our county of Cheshire. I should feel obliged if any of your correspondents could give information on this subject, as it is always interesting to find such well-known men figuring in our local history.

T. CANN HUGHES.

Pembroke College, Cambridge.

[1646] THE ROMAN SALT PANS AT NORTHWICH.

Mr. WESTON's communications to THE SHEAF respecting the old Roman Salt Pans found in the neighbourhood of Northwich must command more than a passing interest at the present moment; for the great question of the Cheshire Salt Field is being learnedly discussed before a Select Committee of the House of Commons, and most useful evidence is being given, pro and con, by scientific witnesses as to the causes of "sinkings" at Northwich and elsewhere, and the rapid conversion of land into meres.

One class of witnesses assert, I see, that this is wholly due to the pumping of brine by the salt makers, while others again assert that it is due to natural causes, the theory being that a certain quantity of rainfall finds its way in the salt formation, at the outcrop of the strata at Eddisbury, Congleton, and other

high lands, and that this water comes into contact with the rock salt below, melts it, washes it away, and then under pressure finds outlets in the lower lands upon the margin of the Weaver, and flows to the sea.

Ellesmere, Hanmer, Combermere, Budworth, and other ancient lakes upon the salt formation, are said to be due entirely to the natural abstraction of underground support in the manner stated; and the more recent sinkings at Winsford and Northwich are attributed to the same cause, and partly to bad mining in the rock salt; and a good deal has been said in evidence of the historical opinions to be found in Leland, King's *Vale Royal*, Jackson's papers in the *Philosophical Transactions*, Ormerod, and other writers who have devoted some attention to this subject. But so far as I have seen the reported proceedings, no reference has been made to the old Roman workings near Northwich, nor a word said about the "old Salt Pans" mentioned by Mr. WESTON.

I suppose it is certain that no pits were sunk by the Romans down to the rock salt; and it follows almost as a matter of course that they must have intercepted the brine springs as they issued out of the earth: and then, with their usual precocity, they found out a method of extracting the salt from the brine much as the moderns have done, but using wood for fuel, just as the present makers use coal.

I should very much like to know, also, if Mr. WESTON has found any traces of old woodlands in the neighbourhood of Northwich. He says that horns, bones, and tusks of the wild boar have been found *below high water mark*. Is not this very conclusive as to the gradual but certain sinking of the soil long before the modern system of salt manufacture had been adopted in Cheshire? The question at issue is full of serious consequences to landowners: for if it be true that the rainfall, or so much of it as finds its way to the rock salt, penetrates into the ground, and then washes away the natural support of the subsoil, carrying it to the sea, new "meres" must in course of time occupy a considerable portion of Mid-Cheshire, and thus occasion serious loss to the landowners and the public. I hope Mr. WESTON will follow this matter up as quickly as possible.

May, 1881.

ROMANUS.

[1647] SHUTTLINGS LOW.

If any of your readers are fond of a climb, and desire to see a wide expanse of old Cheshire stretched far away out before them, let them do as I did the other day,—mount leisurely up to the peaked summit of SHUTTLINGS LOW, a short distance from Maccolesfield. The walk will, if nothing else, be an appetising charm; and the climber may then be able from personal inspection to tell me (what I much wish to know), into how many counties it is possible to peep from that breezy "coign of vantage?"

H. S. A.

Replies.

[1648] SIR THOMAS WILLIAMS, BART.

[Nos. 1317, 1543, 1559.—Sept. 2, 1880, March 9, 28, 1881.]

I do not like to see "THE SHEAF," however innocently, perpetuating an error. In Vol. II. p. 263, No. 1559, the account of Sir JOHN WILLIAMS, of Pengethley, is manifestly taken from Burke's *Extinct Baronetage*, which erroneously describes Susanna, wife of Henry Cornewall, of Bredwardine Castle, Esq., as his daughter. She was the daughter and coheir of Sir John Williams, second Baronet of Marnhull (not of Minster, as also erroneously stated by Burke and others), by Susanna, daughter of Sir Thomas Skipwith, first Baronet of Metheringham. I have already corrected these errors in my notes to the marriage of her parents, and the burial of her husband, in my *Westminster Abbey Registers*, pp. 9 and 289.

Sir JOHN WILLIAMS, of Pengethley, or, as he called himself in his will, of Sellake, co. Hereford, was father of Penelope, who married Thomas Symonds, Esq., and he named no other child in his will. He had, however, at least one other daughter, as the execution of the will by Thomas Symonds the executor was contested by Anne, wife of William Massie, Esq., who was described in the proceedings as "natural and legitimate daughter of Sir John Williams" the testator. The name of Hurleston is nowhere mentioned. The will of Sir John was dated 7 April, and proved 24 July, 1723.

London.

JOSEPH LEMUEL CHESTER.

JUNE 1, 1881.

Original Documents.

[1649] MR. LANE'S CHESTER MIRACLE.

(Continued from No. 1641.)

I complete to-day the relation of Mr. LANE's wonderful treatment of the deceased maiden at Chester:—

M' Lane demanded of her that kept this cruell handled creature, whether she could not kepe her downe, who answered noo, & said that she had once tryed it, and then was almost cast in to the fyre. Then desyred he that she would p'mitt him to assaye if he could hold this dolefull woman downe. She answered yea, but yett said it would not p'vayle. Well, said M' Lane, by the grace of god yt may p'vayle: and therevpon aft'r that this pytyfull mayden had lyfted her self 4 or 5 tymes in such wonderfull man' as before is noted, he toke her in

hand, and w'th much adoo plucks downe her foete, and with more ado kept theim downe, holdinge her hands sittinge vpon her leggs; in whome he found such strength & vehem't panges, as he was fullye p'awaded she was possessed.

The people p'sent seinge him so to continue w'th her, & her paynes encrease, some thought best he should lett her alone, sayenge that it would haue the course; whom M' Lane desyred to be quiett, & lett god woroke, willinge them to praye to god for her; for asmuch as in him onelye consisteth her delin'ance from that payne, & that god was as stronge as eu'r he was. And when she was in the vehem't pangs, the beholders called upon god for her. M' Lane secretlye saith the fyttie spaine, & often desyred god through the blood of his sonne Jh'us Christe, to ease the mayden, not dowtinge of his marcie in that behalff.

And when he had thus stryved w'th her the space of twoo howres, that the drops trickled downe his face, he had thought to have comended her vnto god: but then agayne it cam' to mynd to tary thend, & so began of freshe to stryve w'th her, euer secretlye prayeing, & callinge vpon the bloud of christe, & then dyd he p'strate overthwart vpon h'r bellye, w'th as greate weight as he could; at w'che she stryved more then before, and dyu's tymes w'th the vehem't swellinge of her bellye, she was verye like to haue throwen him over at the last.

M' Lane called for vinegar, wherbye the standers by m'ueled, sayenge that, that thinge often tymes, w'th much more, had ben attempted, but to no purpose. Notw'thandinge he cessed not to call styll for that, sayenge, that god myght do that then, w'che he dyd not before; and so Received vyneger, put it in to his mowth, and blewe it in to the maydens nose thrills, wherat she cryed a 'ladye, ladye.' He then willed her to call vpon god & the bloud of christe, and in the doyngs she bei . . . astoned, he called againe for more vyneger, wherat she cryed 'no, no, no more [for] god's sake!' Then M' Lane willed her to speake & saye aft'r hym, and so he & all th[ose] p'sent said the Lord's prayer & te Deum, she sayenge aft'r them.

After this her deliv[ery] she then continuallye called vpon god, and by the apoyntm't of M' Lane, she had clothes put on & meate brought, wherof she did eate a litle.

Thus donne, M' Lane willed to trye whether she could goe; whar vnto, albeit that those then p'sent answered that it was not possible, for that she had not gone in all the tyme of xvij weekes then last past; yet M' Lane affirmed, that the same god w'che gave her speche, could geve her strength allso to goe; & so, dep'tinge the place vntill the women had gotten on her hosen, & then cominge in againe, willed her in the name of god to come to him, standinge in the other syde of the howse, w'che she dyd. And therupon, aft'r talke had w'th her of the man'r of her takinge, & admonishinge her to have a stedfast fayth in christe, & to occupie her self in her prayer, left her."

My ladye Calu'ley, mystres graveno'r, wyffe to John graveno'r, w'th diu's other credible p'sons, were p'sent duringe such tyme as M' Lane was w'th the mayden, & are eye witnesses to thes his doings. The next daye followinge, M' Lane preached at St. maryes, w'thin the said Cittie, before John throgm'ton, esquire, the quenes ma'ties high Justice in the Countie of Chest'r, at w'che sermon the late recon'rd mayden was p'sent.

Vpon this so wonderfull a cure greate talke was had in eche companye w'thin the Cittie, [so] that therupon the mayden was not onelye brought vnto the said Justice, & M' Lane aft'rwards vpon earnest request, by some of his friends halff constrayned, dyd wright his whole doings therin; but allso M' Rogers, archdeacon of Chest'r, in his S'rmon made in the Cathedrall church of Chest'r, the iijth of this moneth of m'che, before the mayer of the Cittie, the busshops of Chest'r & of St. Assaph,—att w'ch a greate multitude of the Citizens, besyde havinge of occasion offred by the me'res of the pr'sent gospell,—touched this fact, alledginge what soeu'r was the originall cause of so greate & strange a disease, yett was the Cvre wonderfull, & wrought by god either to the greate comoditie, or greate plage, of the Cittie of Chest'r & the Countrie adjoyninge.

The mayden Remayneth at this pr'sent, prayesd be god, in p'fect good health and lykinge. thus trulye, & as briefely as I might, you haue the effect of you'r request. Written at the Cittie of Chest'r the vijth of m'che, A'o 1564. The names of the witnesses hereof, w'che allso dyd sett to their hands,

S'r Will'm Caluley, knight
Richard hurlston, esquire
John fyssher, gent'.

"J. Sampson. Received of JOHN SAMPSON for his lycense for pryntinge of a *Copys* of a letter Dyscrybinge the Wonderfull Works of GOD.
iijd."

119 b. of Register of Stationers Company for the year July 22, 1564—July 22, 1565.

A few words will be necessary here to connect Mr. LANE more intelligibly with what at all events was regarded by his contemporaries as an absolute miracle. Of the time or place of birth of Mr. LANE I have found no trace. When quite a young man, however, he studied at Christ's College, Cambridge, of which in due course, as I believe, he became Fellow. Subsequently, having been granted and having accepted holy orders he soon made his mark as a preacher, but, I think, undertook no actual cure of soules. Possessing great powers in the pulpit he was appointed Queen's preacher for Cheshire, if not also for portions of Lancashire. He discharged these duties with much enthusiasm, and by the Queen's favour was appointed Sept. 8, 1570, Prebendary of the Sixth Stall in Chester Cathedral, and died in 1580. He was evidently a man of great clerical and personal power, of which a proof is shown in the narrative of his treatment of the Chester girl alluded to in our last issue.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1650] PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION
OF CHESTER, CITY AND COUNTY.

[Continued from No. 1632.]

Richard Cromwell (1658-9).

Summoned to meet at Westminster, 27th January,
1658-9. Dissolved 22d April, 1659.

No Returns found.

A List for this Parliament is given in Browne Willis' *Notitia Parliamentaria*, purporting with others to be "for the most part taken from Lists printed in those times." He thus writes:—

Anno 11 Charles II.

Parliament at Westminster.

Anno 1658-9.

"This Parliament, consisting of the Knights, Citizens and Burgesses, and Barons of the Cinque Ports, of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland and Ireland, met Jan. 27, 1658-9, and continued till Oct. 13: at which Time being interrupted sitting, they assembled again Dec. 26 and sate till Mar. 16 following, when they passed a Vote, not only for dissolving themselves, but the last Parliament, called Nov. 3, 1640, by Royal Authority, and summoning a new Parliament to meet on April 25, 1660, which on their Session called back the King, and restored the Constitution in Church and State.

JONATHAN RIDGE, Alderman.

JOHN GRIFFITH, Alderman.

Pawley gives the same return, and styles it the Convention called "Richard's Parliament."

JONATHAN RIDGE, Alderman, Sheriff of the City in 1648. No further information.

JOHN GRIFFITH, Alderman. No information.

Commonwealth (7th May, 1659).

On 7th May, 1659, the Officers of the Army having by a Declaration, signed by direction of Lord Fleetwood and the Council of the Officers of the Army, invited the Members of the Long Parliament, who continued sitting till 20th April, 1653, to return, letters were sent "to the several Members of the present Parliament now out of Town, who have subscribed their names to the Parliament Roll of Subscriptions to the Engagement, and are not disabled to sit by the Judgement of this Parliament."

On 13th October, 1659, the late Principal Officers of the Army, whose Commissions were vacated, placed guards about the doors of the Parliament House, and interrupted the Members from coming to the House: but on 26th December, the Parliament was restored, and sate until 16th March, 1659-60, when a Bill was passed "for Dissolving the Parliament began and Holden at Westminster the 3d of November, 1640, and holding of a Parliament in Westminster, on the 25th of April, 1660. (See *Commons Journals*.)

This is evidently the same that Browne Willis refers to in the last Parliament, but in the "Parliamentary Blue Book" it is placed as above separately.

Ledsham.

R. M.

Queries.

[1651]

"LYCIDAS."

John Milton, in his Monody bearing this title, bewails a learned friend, unfortunately drowned in his passage from Chester on the Irish seas, in 1637. Who was this contemporary of the illustrious author of *Paradise Lost*, and is anything known of the circumstances attending the shipwreck?

Pemb. Coll., Camb.

T. CANN HUGHES.

[1652]

THE CHESHIRE ACRE.

Will Mr. Worthington, of Northenden, or if inconvenient to him, will Mr. Vawdrey or some other Cheshire Antiquary acquainted with the measurement of Cheshire land, kindly inform me what is the exact area of a Cheshire acre? Is the Lancashire acre, or is the Flintshire or Denbighshire acre, computed by the Cheshire or standard measure?

Touching the old English word "haef"—half,—is the haef acre exactly the half of the Cheshire or statute acre respectively, as the case may be?

A CITIZEN SCRIBE.

[1653]

CHESHIRE FARMING IN 1765.

According to the *Annual Register*, the first sowing of Dutch oats in Cheshire was a success. The crop was gathered in the autumn of 1765, off the farm of Mr. Samuel Jackson, of Nantwich. Eight statute acres had been sown, and we are told that the stalks (or stems) were six feet high; and that "it was supposed every grain produced eleven or twelve stems," and that most of the stems produced about two thousand and eighty grains, "the raisoms, or ears, being covered eighteen inches long." "And though it is common," the account goes on to say, "for one chaff to contain two grains, it is very remarkable that, in this crop, one chaff frequently contained three; the least of which had a good kernal in it. Upon threshing and winnowing a thrave, or twenty-four sheaves, the produce was seven measures of fine marketable corn, and half a measure of light corn, thirty-six quarts to the measure." It was also stated that Dutch Oats had only been once before sown in the Kingdom. In one of Douglas Jerrold's comedies we are told that the soil of one of our colonies was so rich that you had "only to tickle it with a hoe, and it would laugh a harvest!" What would this have done with Dutch oats? Are such grown in Cheshire now-a-days, and with what results?

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

Replies.

[1654] BOLOGNA THE HARLEQUIN.

[No. 1627.—May 11.]

I beg to refer your correspondent "M. O. Y." to "Dickens' Life of Grimaldi the Clown" in answer to his query anent the above. I have not the book by me at present, or should have been glad to have given "M. O. Y." full particulars.

So far as I can recollect, however, Bologna paid a visit to Chester in company with the celebrated Grimaldi, and the two put up at the White Lion Hotel; and the book gives a very amusing account of their visit, including the information "M. O. Y." requires.

WILLIAM SELLER.

This laughable story of Bologna and his meanness shall be told in Box's own words:—

"The morning after his last performance here, Grimaldi took a post-chaise and started for Chester, where he had undertaken to act for one week. As the chaise drove up to the White Lion, the London coach drove up too, and, seated on the outside, he saw, to his great surprise, his old friend Old Bologna, who, it appeared, had been engaged expressly to perform with him in 'Mother Goose.' The unexpected meeting afforded great pleasure to both, and having ordered a private sitting room and a good dinner, they sat down together and fell into conversation; in the course of which, Bologna, by various hints and other slight remarks, gave his friend to understand that his old characteristic of never being able, without a strong effort to make up his mind to spend a penny was by no means impaired by time. The room was handsomely fitted up; and the dinner, which was speedily placed before them, consisted of a great variety of expensive delicacies, the sight of which awakened in Bologna's mind a great many misgivings concerning the bill, which were not at all lessened by the landlady, informing them, with a low curtsy, as she placed the first dish on the table, that she knew who they were, and that she would answer for their being provided with every luxury and comfort the house would afford. They were no sooner left alone, than Bologna, with a very dissatisfied air, informed his friend that he saw it would never do to stay in that house.

'Why not?' inquired Grimaldi.

'Because of the expense,' he answered. 'Bless me! look at the accommodations: what do you suppose they'll charge for all this? It won't suit me, Joe; I shall be off.'

'You can do as you please,' rejoined his friend; but if you'll take my advice, you'll remain where you are: for I have found from experience, that if there is a choice between a first-rate and a second-rate house, one should always go to the former. There you have the best articles at a fair price; while at the other you have had things, worse served up, and enormously dear.'

Bologna was ultimately prevailed upon not to leave the house, contenting himself with various economical resolutions, which he commenced putting in practice when the waiter appeared to know if they would order supper.

'Supper!' exclaimed Bologna; 'certainly not; not on any account. Suppers are extremely unhealthy: I never take them by any chance.'

'You may get some supper for me,' said Grimaldi, 'and have it ready at half-past eleven.'

'What will you like to order, sir?'

'I'll leave it to the landlady. Anything nice will do.'

'Good Heaven!' said Bologna, as the waiter went out of the room, 'what a bill you'll have to pay here!'

They strolled about the town; arranged with the manager to commence next night with 'Mother Goose,' and having beguiled the time till supper, repaired to the inn, where a fine brace of partridges, done to a turn, were placed before Grimaldi, which his companion eyed with very hungry looks, congratulating himself aloud, however, upon having saved himself that expense at all events.

There was a silence for some minutes, broken only by the clatter of the knives and forks; and then Bologna, who had been walking up and down the room in a restless manner, stopped short and inquired if the birds were nice.

'Very!' replied Grimaldi, helping himself again; they are delicious!'

Bologna walked up and down the room faster after this, and then rang the bell with great vehemence. The waiter appeared, and Bologna, after long consideration, hesitatingly ordered a Welsh rare-bit.

'Certainly, sir,' said the man; and by the time Grimaldi had finished his supper the Welsh rare-bit appeared.

'Stop a minute, waiter,' said Bologna. 'Grimaldi, do you mean to take supper every night?'

'Certainly. Every night.'

'Well then, waiter, remember to bring me a Welsh rare-bit every evening when Mr. Grimaldi takes his supper. I don't want it; but it has so rude an appearance to sit looking on while another man is eating, that I must do it as a matter of form and comfort. You'll not forget?'

'I'll be sure to remember, sir,' was the reply.

The moment he was gone, Grimaldi burst into a great roar of laughter, which his sordid friend took in high dudgeon, muttering various observations regarding extravagance, which were responded to by divers remarks relative to shabbiness. Neither of them gave way, and the supper arrangement was regularly acted upon; Grimaldi always having some warm dish of game or poultry, and Bologna solacing himself with a Welsh rare-bit, and the reflection of having saved money while his companion spent it. They stayed at Chester nine days in all, and when the bills were brought at last, found, as Grimaldi

had anticipated, that the charges were moderate, and well merited by the manner in which they had been accommodated.

'Well, Bologna,' said Grimaldi with a triumphant air, 'are you satisfied?'

'Pretty well,' he replied. 'I must acknowledge that the bills are not so heavy as I feared they would have been; but there is one terrible mistake in mine. Look here! they have charged me for supper every night just as they have charged you. That must be wrong, you know; I have had nothing but Welsh rare-bits.'

'Certainly,' said Grimaldi, looking over the bill. 'You had better ring for the waiter: I have no doubt he can explain the matter.'

The bell was rung, and the waiter came.

'Oh! here's a mistake, waiter,' said Bologna, handing him the bill. 'You have charged me for supper every night here, and you'll remember I only had a Welsh rare-bit. Just get it altered, will you?'

'I beg your pardon, sir,' replied the waiter, glancing from the bill to the customer; 'it's quite right, sir.'

'Quite right?'

'Quite, sir: it's the rule of the house, sir,—the rule of every house on the road,—to charge in that way. Half-a-crown for supper, sir: cold beef, fowl, game, or bread and cheese: always half-a-crown, sir. There were a great many other dishes that you might have had; but you recollect giving a particular order for a Welsh rare-bit, sir?'

The saving wretch said not another word, but paid the nine half-crowns for the nine Welsh rare-bits, to his own great wrath and his friend's unspeakable amusement! By the six days' performance at Chester Theatre Grimaldi netted £100.

EDITOR.

[1655] BISHOP WILLIAM OVERTON.

WILLIAM OVERTON, S.T.P., took orders in the reign of Edw. VI., and must therefore have been born as early as 1532, and may have been as early as 1526. He was Rector of Stoke-upon-Trent, and of Hanbury, co. Staff., and successively Prebendary of Chichester, Sarum, and Winchester. He became Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry in 1579, and died 9 Ap., 1609, and was buried and has an altar tomb and effigy at Eocles-hall. As Bishop he had the patronage of the stall of Tarvin in the Cathedral of Lichfield. He married 1, Margaret, daughter of Barlow, Bp. of Chichester, and 2, Maria, daughter of Edmund Bradstock, Esq.

In 1592 he presented VALENTINE OVERTON to the stall of Tarvin; and from 1603 to about 1608 a Valentine Overton was Archdeacon of Derby.

Also a Valentine Overton was Rector of Bedworth, co. Warwick, probably from 1569 to his death, 1646-7, aged 80.

Further, Elizabeth, a daughter of the Rector of Bedworth, married Sabbath Clark, instituted Vicar of

Tarvin 14 Sept., 1621, and Katherine, a younger sister, born 25 Feb., 1602, married 2 Feb., 1625, Samuel Clark, then Minister of Shotwick, and after of St. Benet-Fink, in London.

Further, the Rector of Bedworth had 6 sons, of whom one was William, and one Valentine, two or more of whom left children.

These particulars are mainly derived from the Will of the Rector of Bedworth, proved in London, 1646; and of Sabbath Clark, proved at Chester, 1663; but I cannot find either in London, or at Chester, or at Lichfield, any Will or letters of Administration for Bishop Overton, or for Archdeacon Valentine Overton; nor can I ascertain whether the Archdeacon was the Bishop's son, as was probable, or whether he was the same with the Rector of Bedworth, which is possible, perhaps probable. I shall be very glad if any of the readers of THE CHESHIRE SHEAF can enlighten me on these points.

London.

G. T. C.

JUNE TO DECEMBER, 1881.

Towards the end of May, THE EDITOR was suddenly struck down with a severe and dangerous illness, which completely prostrated him for nearly eight months, and the publication of THE SHEAF was in consequence during that interval suspended. It was in the end determined to recommence the work with the first week of the new year of 1882; and thus an opportunity has been afforded both to Contributors and Editor for a much needed rest.

JANUARY 1, 1882.

Original Documents.

[1656] SEARCHING FOR ROUNDHEAD ARMS.

In the days of the Inter-regnum, especially as it approached its close, there was a growing nervousness amongst the ruling powers lest some sudden rising of the people should crumple up their rope of sand, and drive them headlong from their little brief authority. It was not uncommon then, for an armed force to enter the private houses of the Cestrians, and, under the pretence of searching for concealed arms or stores, inflict much havoc and loss on unoffending citizens, who were left by their masters almost without shadow of remedy.

Naturally enough, when "kings were trumps," these facts did not go unremembered, and the national play

of tit-for-tat was for a while freely indulged in. The three documents now to be given from the collection of the late Sir PHILIP GREY EGERTON, Bart., an early and constant friend of THE SHEAF, will afford some criterion of what was going on in the Royalist councils in Cheshire, at that agitated period.

The first is an Order from the Court of Lieutenancy, at that time sitting at KNUTSFORD, to seize the Arms of the disaffected within the County, and runs thus:—

"These are to will and require you to make search for Armes in the houses of all disaffected Persons within the County of Chester, and the same bring to us, or some of us whose names are subscribed (Deputy Lieutenants of the sayd County), together with a particular list in writing of what Armes you have soe taken, and from what persons: And that you com'and your souldiers to bee very Civil in the Search, without offering abuse to any person; and that they search not, nor take away any Armes from any person, but such as you shall give them Com'ission for under your hand in writing. Given under our hands at Knutsford, Decemb'r 11th, 1660.

THO: CHOLMONDELEY.
P. LEYCESTER.
P. BROOKE.

For Sir Phillip Egerton, Kt.,
Captaine of a troope of horse
in y'esayd County of Chester."

The search seems to have been at once set on foot in the several Townships of the County, and we have here the Return made from one of them (perhaps Upton, where the Brooks had their seat and chief estates), under the hand of Deputy Lieutenant T. LEGH, who appears to have busied himself pretty much in these official duties.

"January the 18th 1660, received from Will'm Brooke, Quartermaster to Phillipe Egerton, Kn'te, and Captayne of a troope of Horse, the Armes vnderwritten,

Impr's, foure Headpees, one Backe, 2 breasts & j Coaletts, 2 billes, 2 halfe pikes, 9 paere of Holsters, 11 Muskets, 7 Gunes, 3 Carabienes, 14'ne swords, 6 case of Pistols, 1 sett of Bandeleires and 2 belts. I say, received the Armes abovesaid.

By mee,

T. LEGH."

What was required to be done in the County in 1660 was, in 1662, extended also to the City, where, as we know from other evidence, disaffection was still secretly smouldering. In such days the boot of the trooper was seldom out of the saddle, nor was the sword of authority often allowed to rust; and the Document following shews that the Royalists kept themselves well on the *qui vive* to prevent the possibility of surprise. Still it is clear from the tone of the Order now to be printed that, despite the irritation natural in such an emergency, moderate counsels were allowed to prevail. The result seems to have been that only a few

of the more turbulent spirits were pounced upon, and punished with confiscation or fine; while the remainder of the malcontents were allowed to pursue their avocations within the City in comparative peace.

Sir Philip Egerton was at the time in command of the horse at Chester, and to him and his subaltern, Captain Needham (of Kilmorey blood), the Committee of Safety for Cheshire write as follows:—

"S'r,

Wee desire you will Consult with the Mayor of CHESTER about such p'sons in the Cittie as there may bee iust cause to Suspectt, And to Seize there Armes.

And if there be any Tradesmen that have any powder, whom the Mayor shall Suspectt, that then an account may be taken what powder or ammunition they have. And that you Certifie us thereof. And also that you will informe yo'r selves of all such Suspected p'sons w'thin the Hundred of Werrall, that have any Armes in there hands, and give vs an account of there Names and places of abode.

North'wh, 16th
July, 1662.

P: LEYCESTER.
PE: BROOKE.
THO: MARRY.
HENRY LEIGH.

For S'r Philip Egerton, Kt.,
and Capt' Thomas Needham
at Chester,
These."

I am unaware what precise course was taken by Richard Broster, the loyal Mayor, when Sir Philip and he got in conference together; but we may be pretty well assured that the Roundhead dealers in contraband of war had no rose-bed to sleep on, until they had made their peace with the King and his local council.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1657] CHESTER ELECTION IN 1768.

I have transcribed the following interesting scrap relating to local politics, and how they were nurtured, from the *Chester Courant* of 111 years ago:—

"Chester, March 22 [1768].—On Friday last, THOMAS GROSVENOR and RICHARD WILBRAHAM BOOTH, Esqrs., were elected members for this ancient city, without opposition. Immediately after, they were carried through the principal streets, attended by great numbers of freemen, &c., with loud acclamations, and then adjourned to dinner at Mr. Leech's, the "*Plume of Feathers*," in Bridge-street, where a sumptuous and elegant entertainment was provided, and at which a numerous company of gentlemen attended. The day concluded with ringing of bells, and every demonstration of joy, and a considerable sum of money was spent among the freemen upon the occasion."

History is often its own echo, and one need not be very old to remember something close akin to the above in our ancient city, even during the boasted Victorian era !
M. O. Y.

Queries.

[1658] FARNDON AND HOLT.

Are there any evidences extant to shew in what year, or at all events in whose reign, the fine old Bridge that spans the DEE, between the border towns of HOLT and FARNDON, was built? I gather, from some papers I have been consulting for another purpose, that the Bridge, at certain periods of its history, caused considerable injury to the river and its banks; and this will scarcely be wondered at when we think of the "freshes" that are so prevalent on the Dee, and that so frequently overflow the adjacent lands both on the Welsh and Cheshire side. Any stray facts illustrating these points will, I am sure, be interesting to the students who rally round THE SHEAF.

SENEX.

[1659] A STOFPFORT COACH.

What is a Stoppfort (I presume meaning STOCKPORT) COACH? Is there any vehicle, answering to it, in use in the present day? I fancy I have met with the name in one of the old north country ballads current during the first half of the 18th century.

SENEX.

[1660] "LIKE HESKEY'S LIBRARY, ALL OUT-SIDE."

What is the meaning of this saying, which I used to hear in North Wales when I was a bagman, some 30 or 40 years ago, before railways took all the glory and interest out of the old coach roads? A commercial traveller's life in those days was, if often a short, always a jovial and merry one, very different from the unsocial and often selfish experience of the present regime. I am inclined to believe the saying originated in Cheshire.

Macclesfield.

J. WALKER.

[1661] GROSVENOR FAMILY.

A *Cavalier's Note Book*, edited by the Rev. T. B. GIBSON, and published in 1880, contains many interesting memoranda relating to Lancashire and Cheshire. It consists of 'notes, anecdotes, and observations of WILLIAM BLUNDELL, of Crosby, Lancashire, Esquire, Captain of Dragoons under Major-General Sir Thomas Tildesley, Knight, in the Royalist army of 1642.' As a Roman Catholic he suffered much 'for conscience sake,' but 'ended his days peaceably at Crosby Hall on May 24, 1698.'

At page 102 of this *Note Book* is the following account of the death of a member of the Grosvenor family; and although it has already been referred to in THE SHEAF, the Editor will perhaps allow me to recapitulate it here:—

"My good friend, Mr. Da. Sa. (whom I call son), told me this following story, this present May 12, 1668:—Mr. Grosvenor, son of Sir Richard Grosvenor, who was killed some time since, said to Mrs. Houghton (now widow of Mr. Gilbert Houghton) that day before he was killed, that if any man was to ride near his footman (who, I think, was to run a race that day), he would kill him, or be killed by him. Mr. D. S. told me that Mrs. Houghton told him this. But the conclusion was this—Mr. Grosvenor that day swithered Mr. Roberts, and drew upon him; but Mr. Roberts killed him with his sword, and before he died he said it was his own fault."

There appears to be little doubt that the 'Mr. Grosvenor' was Roger Grosvenor, the eldest son of Sir Richard Grosvenor, the second baronet, and who is thus described in the pedigree of the Grosvenor family at p. 848, vol. ii. of ORMEROD'S *History of Cheshire* (Helsby's edit.):—

"Roger Grosvenor, of Eaton, esq. [whose estates were sequestrated, nominated a Kt. of the Royal Oak, 1660;] slain in a duel, died Aug. 22, 1661, aged 33, buried at Eccleston, Aug. 23."

Neither the inscription on the Mausoleum in the north transept of Eccleston Church, nor the obituary notice at p. 837 of ORMEROD'S work, contains any allusion to the mode of death.

I wish to draw attention to the sentence "whose estates were sequestrated," which appears in the above quotation. I fancy this must be erroneous, as Roger Grosvenor never had possession of the family estates, he having died about two and a half years before his father. As a matter of fact, Sir Richard was an ardent Loyalist, and, in 1648 when Sheriff of Chester, opposed the Parliamentary leader, Lord Fairfax, with all the forces he could muster. Owing to this the Parliament sequestered his estates, and he left Eaton with his son Roger. Ormerod has omitted to mention this sequestration in the pedigree notice of Sir Richard Grosvenor, and has—erroneously, in my judgment—recorded it in that of his son.

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood, Surrey.

[1662] CHESHIRE FIRE WORSHIP.

Are there any traces, in the Palatine county, of the early Worship of Fire? I suppose Cheshire must, in this respect, have pretty closely resembled other counties and districts on its borders; but I should like to be referred to any existing evidence of the fact, should any such have survived to these modern times.

A WOODMAN.

Replies.

[1663] MASTER ROBERT FROST.
[Nos. 64, 96, 303, 473.—May 29, June 12, Oct. 9, 1878,
Jan. 15, 1879.]

"F. A. F." and other correspondents, have, in vol. i. of *THE SHEAF*, made reference to this loyal worthy and his connection with Cheshire. It may be worth while further to record of him that on the 24th February, 1501-2, he was joined in a Commission with William, Bishop of Lincoln, President of the Earl of Chester's Council; Sir Richard Pole, Chamberlain of Chester; Thomas, Abbot of Basingwerk, and others; to survey all the Earl's manors, honors, forests, &c., in the county of Flint, and to correct all abuses in the government thereof; and to arrange with the chief knights and owners therein for the payment of the usual subsidy payable to the Earl when he came into his inheritance. Robert Frost was an officer high in the councils and confidence of his Prince; and it is not improbable that the yet uncalendared Rolls at the Record Office may contain other interesting notices of a man who shone both as a lawyer and an ecclesiastic in very stirring times. G. T.

[1664] MALPAS SYCAMORES.
[Nos. 573, 611.—March 19, April 9, 1879.]

Some time back a question appeared in *THE SHEAF* as to the probable age of the beautiful sycamores on the glebe of this rectory. I answered at the time very diffidently; inclining to father the planting of them on Bishop HEBBER's mother, who (distinguished, like the mothers of most great men) is said to have done so much for this place. My only doubt on this theory was whether the trees could have attained their present size so quickly. I have come to-day upon a note which I subjoin, tending to show my surmise to be correct, as the date, 1783, is the year of Bishop HEBBER's birth.

"LONDON says that the European sycamore 'will grow in exposed situations, and especially on the sea coast, and maintains its erect position against the sea breeze better than most trees. It is used for that purpose in Scotland, and also for planting on the bleak hills. In such situations an instance can hardly be found of the head of the tree leaning more to one side than another. Even when the wind blows strongly in one direction for nine months in the year, this tree retains its perpendicularity and symmetrical form. . . . The sycamore usually attains its most perfect state in ninety or one hundred years, and two hundred years is for this tree a good old age.'"

Any one who knows MALPAS will see at once how applicable these words are to the case in point.

Higher Rectory. WM. TREVOR KENTON.

[1665] SIR THOMAS WILLIAMS, BART.

[Nos. 1817, 1543, 1559, 1654.—Sept. 22, 1880; March 9, 23, 1881.]

William Leche's mother was one of the four heiresses of JOHN and MARY HURLESTON, *nee* Williams. Being also named Mary has caused the mistake, which you will greatly oblige me by correcting, lest discredit should be thrown on my communications to *THE SHEAF*.

ELIZABETH ANTONIE LECH.
Clifton, Bristol.

[1666] CHESTER ELECTION, 1609-10.
[Nos. 370.—Novr. 20, 1878.]

Notwithstanding, at the first glance, the apparent strength of the evidence quoted by "R. M." in favour of the return of KENDRICK AP EVAN in 1609, as member for CHESTER; a careful examination of the authorities named leads me to the opinion that the successor of HUGH GLASIER was JOHN BINGLEY, as stated in the Parliamentary Blue Book, and that ap Evan never represented the city at all. According to the paragraph (Vol. i., p. 115; No. 370), GLASIER died at London July 6th, 1609, and on the 18th July following "KENDRICK AP EVAN was chosen in his stead." The dates are important. To whatever office ap Evan was appointed, in succession to GLASIER, his election took place within *one week* of the decease of his predecessor. Now, Parliament did not meet between July 4th, 1607, and February 9th, 1610, consequently no new writ could have been applied for in the usual manner between those dates; and it is extremely unlikely that orders would have been given to the Court of Chancery to issue the same, the writ have been sent down to CHESTER, and the election held, all within the space of a week! Even in these days of railways and telegraphs I much question if an election to fill a death vacancy has been settled off so quickly.

I venture to think that the election of KENDRICK AP EVAN was simply to the post of Alderman, in place of GLASIER, and not to that of Burgess. It will be seen that on the death of the former in 1618, the same MS. authority speaks of the election of his successor, Mr. EDWARD KEITCHEN or KITCHEN, in much the same language (Vol. i., p. 115).

The date of JOHN BINGLEY's Election Petition, Aug. 18, 1610, and that of his return, as recorded in the Blue Book, Sept. 24, 1610, are perfectly consistent. The address was probably issued just before or immediately after the issuing of the writ, and the five weeks that elapsed between would afford ample, but not too ample, time for the election. At any rate, the Blue Book is very emphatic as to the Return, and I cannot see any reasonable doubt in this instance of its accuracy.

W. D. PINK,
Leigh, Lancashire.

[1667] ST. JOHN'S CHURCH TOWER,
CHESTER.

[Nos. 1596, 1614, 1640.—April 20, May 4, 17.]

In answer to the Rev. FOSTER BLACKBURN'S inquiry respecting the two Bells which were added to the peal of ST. JOHN'S in the year 1733, I beg to enclose a copy of Resolution passed at a Vestry meeting held February 26, 1733-4:—

"At a Parish meeting held the 26th day of Feby., 1733. It is agreed by those whose names are hereunto subscribed, that whereas by an order of Vestry made the 10th day of July last past,

It was ordered that the then and now present Churchwardens and Sidesmen of this Parish, in conjunction with CHARLES MAINWARING, Esq., and Mr. JOHN DICAS, should have leave to fix up two smaller bells to the six now in being in this Parish, Provided the same could be done by contributions without an assessment;

And whereas the said Mr. Mainwaring and Mr. Dicas have since, with the approbation of the said Churchwardens and Sidesmen, procured a voluntary subscription for £80 or upwards for or towards the charge of the said two new Bells, which sum the said Mr. Mainwaring and Mr. Dicas have undertaken to collect and to answer for, and to pay the same unto the said Churchwardens, at or before the 25th day of March, 1735;

It is therefore ordered at this Parish meeting that Alderman JAMES CUMBERBACH, one of the said Churchwardens, do forthwith bespeak the said two bells to be cast by Mr. ABRAHAM RUDHALL, of Gloucester, according to the terms of agreement for that purpose between the said Parish and Mr. Rudhall; and that the said Alderman Cumberbach do cause the said bells to be brought to CHESTER, and to be put up and hung in the same steeple; for the doing whereof this shall be his sufficient authority; and in case of any failure in collecting or getting in the said subscription money, that then the said Alderman Cumberbach shall be indemnified by an assessment to be made upon the Inhabitants of the said Parish for that purpose."

Signed by the Vicar and 16 Parishioners.

It appears from a resolution passed at a Vestry meeting held on January 29, 1733-4, that there was a Club of Gentlemen Bellringers, who were allowed to have a key of the belfry, and access to it whenever they chose to ring: but some inconvenience apparently arose from this arrangement, for in May, 1736, a Parish meeting was held to protest against the liberty allowed to the Gentlemen Club Ringers, and it was

"Ordered that neither they nor any other persons should have free and uninterrupted liberty to ring ST. JOHN'S Bells when they pleased, and not at all without the leave of the Churchwardens for the time being."

S. COOPER SCOTT.

St. John's Rectory, Chester.

JANUARY 18, 1882.

Original Documents.

[1668] SIR JOHN CARTER, OF KINMEL.

About the middle of the 16th century the house and estate of Kinmel was acquired by Pierce Holland, Esq., of Hendrefawr, parish of Abergelge, through his marriage with Katherine, daughter and heiress of Richard ap Ifan ap David ap Ithel'vyohan, by Alice his wife, daughter and heiress of Griffith Lloyd, of Kinmel. Pierce Holland, who served the office of Sheriff of Denbighshire in 1578, was of an ancient family, being 9th in lineal male descent from Sir Thomas Holland, Kt., who, tradition says, came into Wales during troublous times with his brother William, and settled at Fardre, in the parish of St. George. They were supposed to have been the younger sons of John Holland, the attainted Duke of Exeter, who died in 1448, and, according to Dugdale, left each of them an annuity of £40. During the interregnum, the possessor of Kinmel was David Holland, Esq., great grandson of Pierce; who by his wife Dorothy, daughter of Jenkin Lloyd, of Berthllwyd, Esq., was father of two daughters—coheirresses,—Mary, wife of Colonel William Price, of Rhiwlas (a Royalist), to whom she bore nineteen children, ten sons and nine daughters, and died in the 89th year of her age; and Elizabeth, who married Colonel Sir JOHN CARTER, and conveyed him the KINMEL estate. Lady Carter, who was mother of seventeen children, survived her husband twenty-four years, and died in April, 1700.

In Harleian MS. 2180, has been preserved the Funeral Certificate of this Col. (then Sir John) Carter, as taken by Randle Holme, of Chester, deputy Herald. It reached us from our valued correspondent "ALIEN," and runs verbatim as follows:—

"Sir JOHN CARTER, of KINMALL, in the County of Denbigh, Knt., died at the said place on the 25th day of November, in the yeare of our Lord 1676, and in the 57th yeare of his age, and was buried at St. George's Church in the said County.

In the time of his life he married Elizabeth, daughter and co-heire of David Holland, of Kinmall in the County of Denbigh, Esq., who survived him, by whom she had issue, three sons and four daughters living at the time of his death.

Thos. Carter, son and heire of the defunct, was 28 years old at the tyme of his Father's death:—

William Carter, second son of the defunct;
Richard Carter, third son of the defunct;
Dorothy Carter, eldest daughter;
Elizabeth Carter, third daughter;
Katherine Carter, fourth daughter.

The decedent had alsoe eleven children more, sons and daughters, all which died yonge, and in the life time of the defunct.

This Certificate was taken by Randle Holme, of the City of Chester, gent', deputy to the Office of Armes, under the hand of Thos. Carter, Esqre., son and heire of Sir John Carter, deceased."

Sir JOHN CARTER was the younger son of Mr. Thomas Carter, of some place in Berkshire [great grandson of Thomas Carter of Higham, co. Bedford], by a daughter of Mr. William Curtis of Cambridgeshire. He was an officer in the Parliamentary army and a personal friend of Cromwell, who, it is said—but with what truth I know not—visited him at Kinmel. It is related—I think in Pennant—that a wag of the period, in allusion to Sir JOHN CARTER's original position of a linen draper, remarked that by this marriage he had secured the best piece of *Holland* in the country! He served the office of Sheriff of Denbighshire in 1665, and his grandson, William Carter, who was Sheriff in 1716, sold the property in 1729.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[1669] THE TOWER OF ST. JOHN'S, CHESTER, A.D. 1348.

In vol. i. of "Collections for a History of Staffordshire," recently edited and issued by the William Salt Archaeological Society, is the "Register of Bishop Norbury" (A.D. 1322-1358) for the Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, of which the Palatinate then formed part. The Register is accompanied by short, valuable, and interesting Notes or Abstracts. At page 274 is a brief account of the then state of the lofty and emperilled Tower of St. John's, Chester. This paper is contributed by Bishop Hobhouse. We find therein the following Note to the *Ordinatio Ecclesie S'eti Johannis (Cestrie super refectione Ecclesie)* :—

"The Bishop finds on Visitation that the Fabric is in the worst repair. The lofty tower is in peril, the Vestments worn out, Deans & Canons non-resident, Revenues drained by long leases. (He notes that his Injunction that Vicars should be domiciled in master Canons' houses had been slighted). He cancels the leases—limits the Canons to a Dividend of xvi. marks,—all the surplus is to be applied to the repairs of the Fabric & means of Divine Service."

Stafford.

T. J. M.

[1670] A CHESHIRE 17TH CENTURY GIPSY.

An old friend and contributor to THE CHESHIRE SHEAF, Mr. J. P. EARWAKER, of Pensarn, has published the following interesting Note in a recent number of our venerable contemporary, "Notes and Queries." A less intelligent rummager amongst such unconsidered trifles would probably have passed it by unnoticed: not

so however Mr. EARWAKER, who turns his little local discovery to useful account thus :—

"A GIPSY'S INVENTORY, 1627. Whilst engaged upon the *Index to the Wills now preserved in the Probate Court of Chester*, which has recently been printed by the "Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire," I was struck with the name of 'Rumwell Durbare,' which I met with under the year 1627.

Curiosity led me to look at the document itself, not only to verify the correctness of the name, but also to see who it was that bore a name so unusual. When brought to me, it turned out to be the Inventory of a person who had settled down at Crew, in Cheshire, probably on some common land there, and who seems to have been in a fairly prosperous way.

That he was a gipsy will, I think, be evident, not only from his name, but also from the fact that one of the items in the Inventory is "a carte with furniture," which was valued at the sum of 2l. 6s. 8d. It is however not unlikely that he had built himself a small house; for, in addition to the above entry, there are others which speak of 'bedstocks,' 'chests,' 'oudbards,' 'a cradle,' 'one joynd table,' &c. He also had 'kyne,' 'calves,' 'stirkes,' 'one mare,' 'four sheep,' 'one swine,' 'poultry,' 'ploughs,' &c., all betokening a man well to do. He was also possessed of a 'cheese press,' and 'harrows,' 'corne growing upon the ground,' and 'corne in the barns.' His clothing is very neatly summed up in one line, 'his wearinge apparell, with a sword and dagger and bootes,' valued at £5. There was a small stock of 'baskitts and flasketts,' and certain 'toolles for his trade.' He unfortunately left no will, but administration of his effects was granted to Margaret, his relict, on October 15, 1627. The chief items in the Inventory are as follows:—

"Inventory of the goods, &c., of Rumwell Durbare [the endorsement on the back gives it as Rumballe Durbarre] of Crew, deceased, prayd 30th day of March, 1627.

It. a carte with furniture	ijl. ijs. viijd.
It. horse greere [gear], chaines, collers and hornes [harness] with a carte rope.....	xs. 0d.
It. toolles for his trade.....	vjs. viijd.
It. a woman's sadle and bridle with a pillin.....	ijls. 0d.
It. Basketts and flasketts.....	ijls. iijd.
It. in yarne, new cloth and towe ...	jli. xij s. vjd.
It. in sheetes and naperie ware ...	
It. three pickyelues more with a shovell	
It. his wearinge apparell, with a sword and dagger and bootes.....	vi. 0s. 0d.
It. corne in the barns	jli. vjs. viijd.
It. in mucke	xjs. iijd.
It. in Lynsie wolse and gladen [glatton, a local word for Welsh flannel].....	ijls. 0d.
It. in corne growing upon the ground	ijli.

It. an other mare lijē. xijjs. lijē.
 It. saddles and pommell with axe,
 hadchett with a pickell xjs."

J. P. EARWAKER.

This is, from a local point of view, a suggestive little scrap. I have but little doubt that Mr. EARWAKER is correct in treating the document (which I have myself carefully read through at the Chester Court of Probate) as the Inventory of a "Gipsy," and perhaps the earliest record of the kind now extant associated with Cheshire. As to the name of the deceased, I may observe that, while in the printed *Index of Cheshire Wills*, above referred to, the Inventory is printed as that of "*Rumbardi Darbarrie, of Crews*," and in the endorsement, on the same document, the name is written *Rumballe Durbarre*, the Inventory itself gives it as "*Rumwell Durbars of Crew*," as correctly rendered by Mr. Earwaker.

I see from the original Inventory that, gipsy-like, the widow had forgotten to include a number of articles in her catalogue, which were added however by the court, and even then it was only received "with protestation."

The topographical interest attached to the document is considerable. A cursory reader of it would take it for granted that the *Crews* where the Gipsy lived and died was the now amply-renowned CREWE, one of the great centres of modern railway life. Not so, however; and I very much doubt if the once great lawyer, Sir Ranulph Crewe, would have tolerated the presence of the roving strangers so near to his estate and new house at Coppenhall. The latter home of this Rumwell Durbars would almost certainly have been at CREWE, by Farndon, on the Dee-side, the history of which locality had everything in common with the Gipsy class of life. It, or rather perhaps the extra-parochial KING'S MARSH close by, had been for centuries a sort of "no man's land," reclaimed from the river, and with no owners save the crown; and it had been used as a "sanctuary" for debtors and others to flee to when pressed hard by creditors and the myrmidons of the law. In short, OMEROD exactly describes the spot and its surroundings at p. 410 of his *History of Cheshire*, vol. ii. :—

"King's Marsh was one of the three sanctuaries established within the ancient earldom: and by an Inquisition taken before Hugh de Audlegh, Justice of Chester, on Sunday after the feast of St. Peter ad Vincula, 7 Edw. II., it was found 'that a certain large piece of waste, called Overmarsh, was in ancient times ordained for strangers, of what country soever and assigned to such as came to the peace of the Earl of Chester, or to his aid,—resorting there to form dwellings, but without building any fixed houses by the means of nails or pins, save only booths and tents to live in.'"

T. HUGHES.

Queries.

[1671] PATERNOSTER PARDON.

The *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1746 is responsible for the following, which appears at page 688 :—

"INSCRIPTION COPIED FROM A BRASS PLATE ON
A CHURCH WALL IN CHESHIRE.

The Pardon for say-
ing of V Paternosters
and V Aves and a Cred
is xxvi thousand years and xxv
dayes of Pardon."

Can this be identified at the present time?

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood, Surrey.

[1672] GLEGG'S HALL, BROXTON.

While staying at Broxton this summer I came, during my rambles, upon a fine old stone house, standing in park-like grounds: this house a domestic I fell in with told me was known as GLEGG'S HALL, built in the reign of King James. Of course, this was an error; for on a small stone panel in the central gable was plainly enough to be seen the initial and date mark—

D.
G. A.
1708.

the year of the accession of plump Queen Anne.

Who was the original owner of this mansion, and has it any well-accredited history? Although now a mere farm-house, with its court-yard and approaches not perhaps the cleanest or most savoury in the county, there is a quiet dignity and refinement about the place and its surroundings which raise it above the common run of such houses; while the prospect from its terrace and garden embraces a panorama of the fair plains of Cheshire scarcely to be obtained, I think, from any other stand-point.

INVALID.

[1673] BAYARD FAMILY OF CHESTER.

Some 25 or 26 years ago I was shown in the shop of a trunkmaker, named Martin, in Watergate Row, Chester, a 17th century pedigree, upon vellum, of the above-named ancient family. The price asked for it at the time was far beyond my notion of its value; and it passed, I presume, into other and more appreciative hands, but may possibly be even yet in the city or its vicinity. The present owner, should this meet his eye, would confer a favour upon me if I might be permitted a short examination of the document, with a view to future use in THE SHEAF.

DON B.

[1674] THE PRETTIEST VILLAGE IN CHESHIRE.

Which is that? Doubtless a score of voices will be ready at once to exclaim "Our own, to be sure! the one in which we were born, and where our earliest years were spent!" But still the question comes back like an echo,—“Which is the prettiest village in Cheshire?” and I look to the readers of *THE SHEAF* for an intelligent and reasonable reply. Before I moved as much about the country as I have of late, I used to think *ECCESTON* entitled to the palm—but I don't feel so certain of that now.

J. WILKINS, B.A.

[1675] SANDON CHURCH.

There is an ancient document of the 12th century (a transcript is believed to be in the British Museum), in which mention is made of the Church of *SANDON*. From internal evidence it seems probable that this church is either in Cheshire or its immediate neighbourhood; but my acquaintance with the district is extremely limited, and my access to good topographical works is even more limited still. Who will resolve me the doubt?

AGRICOLA.

[1676] THE CONQUEROR AT CHESTER.

History or tradition, or both, affirm that Norman *WILLIAM* once visited *CHESTER* city when in the plenitude of his power. What is the evidence on which this tradition or statement rests?

M. O. Y.

Replies.

[1677] DE QUINCEY'S MOTHER.

[No. 1082.—March 24, 1880.]

MRS. DE QUINCEY for several years resided in a house known as “The Priory,” in *ST. JOHN'S* Church-yard, Chester, the kitchens and cellaring of which formed portions of the chapter-house and crypt of the Norman and Early-English Cathedral. When *St. John's* ceased to be collegiate, and the massive nave became transformed into a Parish Church, the chapter-house and offices along with the eastern chapels all passed rapidly into decay, and were in utter ruin when the *PRIORY* was erected, a short while before Mrs. De Quincey became the tenant. A more picturesque home for the mother of the “Opium Eater” could scarcely have been found, within her means, in this part of England: there she and her household lived in retirement and at ease, within the walls occupied two or three centuries previously by the collegiate authorities: there she was visited frequently, from his Manchester

home, by her distinguished son: there she saw one of her children taken away by death, and laid in his solitary grave just outside the Priory door, as the inscription on his gravestone still remains to tell.

MRS. DE QUINCEY's kitchen was the chapter-house itself; the door of her entrance-hall was a beautiful Norman window, still existing in the most perfect state, through having been so long covered over by the modern dwelling; and it used to be said by those who knew him well at that period, that, during those filial and frequent visits, the son would seclude himself for hours together in the ruins, and under the noble trees that then flourished there; nor is it unreasonable to believe that he drew some of his brilliant inspiration from those sacred shades.

How long Mrs. De Quincey remained tenant of the Priory, I have no certain knowledge; but among those who occupied the place after her were the first Marquis of Westminster, who dispensed his private hospitalities there while serving the Mayoralty of Chester. The late Sir Watkin Williams Wynn also for a time rented that prettily placed abode; as did Captain Clemison; the Rev. W. B. Marsden, late vicar of *St. John's*; the Rev. Francis Grosvenor, a former curate, and others.

This is perhaps an appropriate time to record that this very *PRIORY* House was made the scene and centre of a not much known, but from a local point of view interesting, novel called “*Kate Vernon*,”—the authorship of which I have been unable to trace, but perhaps my mention of the book here may be the means of solving the enigma;—any way, he or she was very well acquainted with the Priory and its choicely laid out grounds.

T. HUGHES.

[1678] BROMBOROUGH OR BRUNANBURGH.

[No. 517.—Feb. 11, 1879.]

The Ordnance Map reference to the *WARGREAVES*, at *BROMBOROUGH*, is not sufficient evidence that the great Battle, fought and lost by our old English ancestors against *Athelstan*, occurred at our Cheshire parish of that name; though if the undoubtedly early word “wargrave” could be traced to the site prior to the 18th century, the fact would go far to strengthen the local claim. I should like to see this historical question more completely thrashed out than it seems hitherto to have been; and if Cheshire can establish her right to the honour, fatal one though it was to the English braves of the period, by all means let it be done!

I am myself inclined to urge that the word *wargrave* and its relatives will be found almost always to indicate an enclosed and moated camp; and of course it may, then, have been round that fated camp at *BROMBOROUGH* that the Saxon warriors bit the dust before their Danish conquerors. Let us try finally to unravel this curious historic doubt.

G. T.

[1679] BOW CHURCH BELLS.—GEORGE PALIN
AND OTHERS.

[Nos. 1,495, 1,602, 1,638.—Feb. 9, April 20, May 18]

The following notes furnish additional information respecting GEORGE PALIN, and other famous contemporaries. The WRENBURY parish "gowns," were, it appears, not the gift of GEORGE PALIN, as stated by Dr. Fuller, but were really given by RAFF BULKLEY.

In Harl. MS. No. 2176, fo. 74, is a long catalogue of charitable gifts to WRENBURY, taken in 1655, and signed by Robert Cudworth and Robert Bankes, Churchwardens, from which I extract as follows:—

"JOH: MASSY, cittizen & merch't Taylor of Lond[on], born at Bromhall, who died 1600, gaue 50 pound to be employed for the use & benefit of the poore inhabit' of this parish of Wrenbury for ever."

"RAFF BULKLEY of London, gen., born at Smeaton wood, in the p'ish of W[renbury], who died 1601, gaue the benefit of 100 marcs, being 5 pounds 12 shillings 8 pence by the yeare, to be dealte euery Sunday to 13 poore people one peny loafe & one penny in money, for the space of 300 yeares next after his decease. He gaue money to build the schoolhouse in Wrenbury, & 40 shillings the yeare towards the maintaining & to buy poor men's children books to learn on of the schoolmaster for 7 yeares at the same schoole. He gaue 20 pound to be bestowed on some preacher or prechers to make 40 sermons at Wrenbury Church, & 15 black coates to 15 poore men within the said p'ish. He gaue the like Legacie to be distributed weekly in the parish of Marbury, with this protestation,—that he did it not for ostentation, but to stire up others charity from his example."

"GEORGE PALYN, cittizen & Girdler, of London, born in Wrenbury frith, who died 1610, gaue to this parish 200 pounds, & 10 pounds out of the benefit of the said 200 pounds to be payd towards ye maintenance of a virtuous & Learned schoolm'r: yearly for ever; & the residue of the profit of the s'd 200 pounds to be bestowed yearly on the poore of this parish of W[renbury] for ever, and 30..... [so in the MS.] towards the buying of a fifth bell."

"RICHARD BOOTE, citizen & girdler of London, born in Chomley, gaue 100*li*, &c., the benefit thereof to the poore of W[renbury]."

I am inclined to share the honor, that "*Cheshire made Bow Bells to ring*," among several of her sons who made their names famous as "merchants" or professional men during the prosperous reign of Queen Elizabeth, and held honourable positions in the great City in the early part of the 17th century. If London tradesmen were produced from rural parishes like Wrenbury; and if men from the county rose to eminence in the City, as some did from the neighbouring parishes of Nantwich and Bunbury; possibly the success of these "*Worthies*" may have given rise to the proverb "*Cheshire made Bow Bells to ring*," applied "late in

the 17th century" in a figurative and not direct sense, as suggested in No. 1,602 of THE SHEAF. I here append a list of distinguished contemporaries of *George Palin* in London, born at Nantwich:—

1. MR. ALDERMAN WALTHALL, of London, who (circa 1600?) gave 100*li*. to be lent out from five yeares to five yeares for ever to foure tradesmen by 25*li*. a piece, paying every of them yearly for the same 20*li*. to be distributed yearly to the poore at ye discretion of the Maior or Bayliffe or Commualtie there [i.e., Nantwich.] (Harl. MS., No. 2,176, 60 a.)

2. MR. OLIVER WILKES, of London (c. 1600?) gave 10*li*. to be lent out freely every yeare to 5 poore men by 40*li*. a peice att the discretion of the Churchwardens [of Nantwich]. (Ibid.)

3. MR. ANTHONY CLOWES, Haberdasher, of London, alsoe borne in this towne [Nantwich] gave the Bookes of Actes and Monuments, and soe much sand and quarrell as raised and laid the body of this church, att his own coost and charges. (Ibid.)

[Note.—The above work was done in 1615 according to the Parish Register.]

4. RICHARD WILBRAHAM, son of Richard Wilbraham, Gent., of Nantwich, was married to the Lord Mayor's daughter, Elizabeth Pallysen, on 21 Feb., 1584; and held the office of common serjeant of the City of London. He died there 13 Sep: 1601, and was buried at St. Michaels'.

5. SIR ROGER WILBRAHAM, KT., brother to the above, was appointed Her Majesty's Solicitor General of Ireland 8 Feb: 1585: was one of the Masters of Requests in Jan: 1599. By a patent dated 21 June, 1603, he received a pension of £100 per ann; granted for his willing surrender of the office of Keeper of the Records of the Tower. (See Cal: State Papers, where his name often occurs). He founded an almshouse at Nantwich; and built Dorfold Hall.

6. THOMAS WILBRAHAM, another brother, and apparently a tradesman in London, "married Anne Pierson, whose father was a citizen of London."

7. JOHN GERARD, who had published his "*Herbal*" in 1597, was elected *Master of the Barber Surgeons' Company*, in Aug: 1608. He died in London in Feb: 1611-2.

8 and 9. Before 1600, two brothers, the sons of John Crewe, Gent., of Nantwich, had taken high rank in the legal profession in London: and some years after, one of them, SIR RANULPH CREWE, KT., became Lord Chief Justice, and the other, SIR THOMAS CREWE, KT., Speaker of the House of Commons."

A native of Bunbury parish, THOMAS EGERTON, rose to even greater eminence as a lawyer, and on 21 July, 1603, was advanced to the dignity of a Baron, by the title of LORD ELLESMERE; and on the 24th of the same month was made *Lord Chancellor of England*. Only two years before this, "in 1601 died Sir George Beeston, of Beeston, Kt., aged 102, who had been knighted by Queen Elizabeth for his valour as a

admiral in the fight against the Spanish Armada, when he was 89 years of age." A board, still preserved in BUNBURY Church, states, *inter alia* :—

"In ye 18th of Q: Eliz: [1575-6] *Thomas Aldersey*, citizen and Haberdasher of London, and younger brother to John Aldersey, of Spurstow, Gen'm., purch'd ye whole Rectory, Church, and tyths of Bonebury of ye Queen, and during all ye continuance of ye lease made good addition to ye maintenance of a minister, out of his owne Purse: and Purchased 3 houses and land in Bonebury and Built a schoole."

So great in repute was this *Thomas Aldersey* that, in the very same year, he was entrusted on important State business, to carry the very large sum of £15,000 to Antwerp. (See Calendar State Papers.)

Can this list of *Cheshire Worthies*, who became successful and famous in London, be lengthened by contemporaries from other parishes?

Willaston, Nantwich.

JAMES HALL.

FEBRUARY I, 1882.

Original Documents.

[1680] WELSH FUNERAL CERTIFICATES, A.D. 1605.

The three important genealogical documents following come to us from our much valued correspondent, Mr. JOHN PAUL BYLANDS, F.S.A., of Thelwall, who has caused them to be extracted for these pages from the Lansdowne MS. 879, in the British Museum. This is only another example of the vast mine of wealth lying comparatively untouched, but still, fortunately, available to historic students in that precious national repository.

The first of these Funeral Certificates to claim our attention to-day is that of

THOMAS EVANS, OF NORTHOP, CO. FLINT, ESQUIRE.

"Arms: Quarterly of twelve: 1st, Argent, a chevron between three boars' heads erased Sable [Evans]. 2nd, Vert, a lion rampant Argent, the paws and the end of the tail Gules []. 3rd, Gules, three lions passant in pale Argent []. 4th, Vert, three eagles displayed in fesse Or []. 5th, Gules, a chevron Ermine between three men's heads couped Argent, orined Or []. 6th, Vert, a stag statant Argent, attired and unguled Or []. 7th, Argent, three pole axes two and one Gules []. 8th, Gules, a chevron between three escallops Argent []. 9th, Gules, fretty Ermine []. 10th, Sable, three fishes naiant in pale Argent []. 11th, Argent, a saltire engrailed Azure, within a bordure engrailed Or []. Argent, a fesse embattled and counter embattled Sable fretty Or, between three lions passant Gules [].

Thomas Evans, of Northop in the Countie of Mynt, Esquier, deceased vpon the third day of December, 1605, and lyeth interred in Northopp Church. He married Jane, daughter of John Mutton of Rydland, in the Countie of Mynt, Esquier; they haue yssue, viz.:

Thomas their sonne and heire, William mort, Roger mort, Robert mort, Peirce second sonne, Richard third sonne, and George Evans fourth sonne.

Marie eldest daughter mort.

Katherine, second daughter of Thomas and Jane, married to Thomas Graffith, of Carous, in the County of Mynt, Esquier, they haue yssue Peirce, their sonne and heire.

Jane, second daughter of Thomas and Jane, married to Thomas Graffith, sonne and heire of William Graffith, of Paunty-londy, in the County of Mynt, Esquier; they haue yssue Thomas, his heire, and Peter, second sonne.

Elizabeth, Prudence, Sara, Penelope, and Wini-frede.

[The copy in Harl. MS. 2041 has the original signature "Tho: Evans."]

In reference to this Mr. Thomas Evans, we have been favoured with the following genealogical particulars from the pen of a well-known Welsh antiquary, to whom THE SHEAF has previously been under essential obligations:—

1. THOMAS EVANS, of Northop, co. Flint, Esq., who died 3rd December, 1605, was the representative of an o'd family long resident in that parish, who traced an unbroken male descent from Ednowen Bendew, Founder of the XIII Noble Tribe of Wales. By his wife, Jane daughter of John Mutton, Esq., of Rhuddlan (whose wife was Catherine, daughter of Piers Mostyn, Esq., of Talacre), he had a family of five sons and eight daughters. The eldest son, Thomas Evans, who was living in 1597, and served the office of Sheriff of Flintshire in 1624, married Joan, daughter of Rev. Richard Paleston; and his son, or more probably his grandson, another Thomas Evans, Sheriff of Flintshire in 1681, had an only daughter and heiress, Martha Evans, who married John Hughes, Esq., of Penbedw ucha, in the parish of Nannerch, co. Flint. Of this marriage there were two sons—John, who died unmarried, and Thomas Hughes, of Northop Hall and Penbedw ucha, Sheriff of Flintshire 1723. He married Florentia, daughter of George Herbert, Esq., of Colebrook, co. Monmouth, and by her had an only daughter and heiress, Martha Hughes, who became the wife of Edward Pryse Lloyd, Esq., of Glansein, co. Carmarthen, by whom she was ancestress of Morgan Pryse Lloyd, Esq., of Glansein, the present representative of this ancient family.

ROWLAND LLOYD, OF THE COUNTY OF DENBIGH,
GENT:

Arms: Quarterly, 1st and 4th, Gules, a chevron between three mullets Or []. 2nd and 3rd, Ermine, a lion rampant Sable [].

ROWLAND LLOYD, of [blank], in the County of Denbigh, gent., deceased upon the sixth day of January, 1605 [1605-6], and was interred in the Cathedral Church of Chester.

He married to his first wife Ales, daughter unto Rowland Gruffyth, of the Plasnewydd, in the sayd County, gent., by whome he had issue Rowland lloyd, who married Gwen, daughter to Thomas Winn, of Dyffrin, in the aforesayd County, gent., and they have issue—

Mary, eldest daughter of Rowland and Ales.

Elizabeth, second daughter.

Ellin, third daughter.

To his second wife he married Jane, daughter to William Billingsley, of [blank], in the aforesaid County, and by her had noe issue.

ROWLAND LLOYD, gent., who died on the 19th January, 1606-6, was the eldest son of Meredith ap John, of Llanellian-yn-Rhos, co Denbigh, by Janet, his wife, daughter of Hugh Conwy. He deduced his descent from Griffith, youngest son of the celebrated Ednyfed Vychan, by his second wife, Gwenllian, daughter to Rhys ap Griffith, Prince of South Wales. She was widow to Conan ap Rodri ap Owen Gwynedd, and was reputed to be "the fairest woman in Wales." The wife of Rowland Lloyd was Alice, daughter of Rowland Griffith, of Plasnewydd, in Anglesey, not Denbighshire as stated in the certificate. He was grandson of Wm. Griffith, Esq., of Penrhyn, Chamberlain of North Wales temp. Henry VI. Rowland had three sisters, Ellen, Jane and Anne, who all married, and six brothers, viz. :—

2. **DAVID LLOYD**, Mayor of Chester in 1593. He married first Alice, daughter of Adam Goodman, of Chester, and secondly Alice, daughter of Adam Bauand (Bavand), Alderman of Chester. This similarity of Christian names, if correct, is a curious coincidence. He died s. p.

3. **MORGAN LLOYD**, Mayor of Beaumaris, who married and had a son, Edward Lloyd.

4. **EDWARD LLOYD**, of Chester, a mercer, who was drowned, and died s. p.

5. **WILLIAM LLOYD**, lived abroad.

6. **GEORGE LLOYD**, D.D., Bishop of CHESTER, consecrated January 4, 1604. He died 1st August, 1615, aged 55. His wife was Anne, daughter to John Wilkinson, of Norwich, by whom he had a family of three sons and three daughters, namely :—

1. David, married Mary Garrard.

2. John. 3. Edward.

1. Alice, married Thomas Yale, son of Dr. Yale.

3. Mary, married John Brayn. 3. Alice.

7. **JOHN LLOYD**.

MARY BODVILLE, WIDOW.

Arms: Quarterley, 1st and 4th, Ermine, two bar Or, and over all a lion rampant Azure [].

2nd and 3rd, Sable, on an inescutcheon Ermine, within eight martlets in orle Or, a leopard's face gules [].

MARY BODVILLE, wife of John Bodville, of Bodville, in the County of Caernarvonne, Esquier, dyed on the xxvijth day January, 1605 [1605-6].

She was daughter to S'r Henry Bagnall, knight, Marshall of ye Realme of Ireland, sains ysaue."

"**MARY BODVILLE, WIDOW.**" This is incorrect. Her husband, John Bodville, Esq., of Bodville, afterwards Sir John, outlived her many years. He was Sheriff of Carnarvonshire in 1623, and married 2ndly Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Wynn, Bart., by whom he had one son, who died s. p., and two daughters—Sarah, wife of Robert Roberts, Earl of Radnor, and Mary, wife of Hugh Cholmondeley, Esq.; by whom she was mother of Robert, 1st Viscount Cholmondeley, who died s. p., 23d October, 1659. Her father, Sir Henry Bagnall, was not "Marshall of the Realme of Ireland," as stated, but son and heir of Sir Nicholas Bagnall, who held that office—namely, "Knight Marshall of the Queen's Army"—during the government of Sir Henry Sidney. Sir Nicholas was Sheriff of Anglesey in 1560. His wife was Ellen Griffith, daughter of Edward Griffith, who was son of Sir William Griffith, Knight Chamberlain of North Wales. She died at Newry in Ireland in 1574.

MARY BODVILLE had three brothers, none of whom left any descendants, and three sisters—Eleanor, married Sir John Salisbury; Elizabeth, died unmarried; and Anne, who married Lewis Bayly, D.D., Bishop of Bangor, 1606, the paternal ancestor of the Marquis of Anglesey. The arms assigned to Mary Bodville, which, by-the-by, are not described in proper terms, are those of Bagnall. The paternal coat of the Bodville family is, "Sable, a chevron between three fleur de lys argent."

EDITOR.

Notes.

[1681] **ST. MARY'S ON THE HILL, AND ST. MARY'S NUNNERY, CHESTER.**

MR. HEMINGWAY has given us some account of the above in his *History of Chester*; but there are records about them which he has not noticed. He mentions Randolph de Clypston, Richard de Sancto Edmundo, Alan de Retford, Thomas de Capenhurst, Guido de Newton, and Thomas de Berynton, as vicars of St. Mary's between 1314 and 1342; but he omits *Richard de Okelley*, who seems to have been appointed in 1343.

The Prioress and Convent of St. Mary's Nunnery had a "license" granted to them July 23, 1352, to purchase of Hugh de Newcastle, Chaplain, and Margaret Banestre, two messuages, and forty acres of land

in Lache, near Marleston; and a "pardon" was granted to them for acquiring from Cecilia de Comptons, certain lands, and tenements in the City of Chester.

In 1354 the Abbot and Convent of St. Werburgh had a "license" granted to them, "to appropriate the Church of St. Mary on the Mount, Chester; and on the 17th of October, 1404, 'William de Venables of Kinderton paid to the Abbot of St. Werburgh, by the hands of Edward de Crue, 20 marks; John de Manley receiving the same, in the name of the Abbot, in the presence of Roger de Brescy, John de Wetenhale, and John del Dedwards; which 20 marks were in part payment of an annual pension of 40 marks, granted for life to *John Squier*, late parson of St. Mary's on the Hill, by the said Abbot.'"

According to Hemingway, Squier was appointed vicar in 1361. I suppose Okeley had been vicar between 1343 and that date, and if the above records have any meaning, he (Okeley) must have got a pension for his life when the Abbot "appropriated the Church" in 1354; and on his death, Squier would, I suppose, come in for the pension on his appointment in 1361, and take it for his life. He must have been alive in 1404, I apprehend; but oddly enough, Hemingway says John de Shavington was made vicar 1361, and that in 1404 John Willaston succeeded him. Now these records want elucidation; for it cannot be supposed that the Abbot would go on paying the pension to one vicar during all this time, and that another vicar took the profits of the living.

On Monday after the Feast of Trinity, 1386, Agatha de Ledsham, Sub-Prioress of the Nunnery of St. Mary's, certifies the King of the death of Agnes de Dutton, Prioress of the Nunnery; and prays license to elect another prioress. A license was granted on the 3rd of July to do so; on the 11th a certificate was given that Alice de Doncastre had been so appointed, and on the 16th the King assents to her election.

According to Mr. Hemingway, Alice de la Haye was the first Prioress of this Nunnery, and he says, she was so in 1264. According to a memorandum I found in Mr. Llwyd's papers, Agnes de Dutton was the *fourth*, and, as I have said, she died in 1386, when Alice de Doncaster took her place. In February, 1407-8, a license was granted to elect a prioress of St. Mary's Nunnery, in the room of Alice de Doncaster, deceased; and on 13th February, a certificate was given that Dame Elizabeth of Crue had been elected; the Prince confirms this appointment on the 15th; and the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry does the same on the 17th of the month. Here then we have three Cheshire ladies in succession presiding over this Nunnery; but, according to Mr. Llwyd, Ellen Blundell, a Lancashire lady, succeeded her; and in 1490, we have a record that Elizabeth Rixton (a Cheshire lady) died prioress. Elizabeth Grosvenor, we know, was the last lady who held the office, when, in 1587, the establishment was

dissolved. It would be interesting to perfect this list, and I hope that someone will try to do so.

Prince Henry had granted to the Prioress and the Nuns of St. Mary's, in the year 1400, "ten loads yearly of wood from Llwyoyd for ever," and in the Welsh Records warrants are recorded as having been issued to the keepers of the lands to see it duly delivered to them.

I hope to revert to these old reminiscences at another time, and shall close this letter with the following:—

"Aug. 5, 1395. William de Hoton, and William de Kirkby, glover, of Chester, enter into a recognisance in 100 marks that William Stoke, clerk and "aque bagillarius" of the Church of St. Mary, shall serve the parishioners faithfully in the said office."

MENTMORE.

Queries.

[1682] THE BRITONS IN CHESHIRE.

In what districts of Cheshire do we find the earliest traces of Ancient British settlement? Antiquaries usually concede the fact that Chester city was of Roman foundation, and that the Britons never occupied it until Rome had long asserted its mastership of our local soil. It would be well to place on SHEAF record any evidence there may be, *pro* or *con*, that has any pretension to historic authority.

L. L.

[1683] A TRADUCER OF WREXHAM.

Who was the wicked scribe who conferred upon the "Metropolis of Wales" the dubious distinction of being "a dirty Welsh village"? Was there anything really in the general condition of the town that could have given colour to such an appellation?

Pont Tuttle.

H. THOMAS.

[1684] CHESHIRE CANTING HERALDRY.

A friend of mine in Herefordshire recently lent me for perusal his MS. collection of what are usually called, I believe, "Canting Arms," connected with the cider county and its vicinity. I imagine that similar and equally amusing examples could be put together for your own county of CHESTER. Will some one make the attempt, and give your readers the benefit of his investigations?

CAMBRO-BRITON.

[1685] BEESTON AND CHESTER COPPER TOKENS.

Can you interpret the Initials on two *Cheshire Halfpenny Tokens*?

1. "S A. C., date 1797; obv. BEESTON CASTLE. The castle, with a bridge in the foreground."

2. "P. & Co., CHESTER. An owl; obv. N.E.S.W. Three Castles."

Tarporley.

C. H. J

[1686] THE CHESHIRE WHIG CLUB.

Have any memories survived of the political Junta which some 50 or 60 years ago pulled the strings of the old Whig Party in this county, prior to the passing of the Reform Act? I refer, of course, to such memories as may be safely included within the non-political area of THE SHEAF.

NEUTER.

Replies.

[1687] TALBOT INN, WARRINGTON.

[No. 1,644.—May 25, 1881.]

The Query in THE SHEAF as to a date on the lintel of the "TALBOT INN" admits of a ready answer. The house called the "TALBOT" was not an inn, but a private house, until 1727, as the title deeds shew; and the date over the lintel was not 1427, but "1021," which had been originally "1621," but had become six hundred years older by decapitating the head of the "6." The lintel itself is now in the Warrington Museum.

W. BEAMONT.

Orford Hall.

[A similar error occurred in connection with an old house in Lower Bridge Street, Chester, and from precisely the like cause.—EDITOR.]

[1688] THE CHESHIRE ACRE.

[No. 1,652.—June 1, 1881.]

A correspondent, dating from Hereford, but who has omitted to favour us with his name, says that the Cheshire Acre contains 10,250 square yards. A more detailed Reply to this Query is, however, still a desideratum.

EDITOR.

[1689] A STOCKPORT COACH.

[No. 1659.—January 4.]

According to WILBRAHAM's *Cheshire Glossary*, a Stockport Coach, or Chaise, was "a horse with two women riding sideways on it," and Wilbraham adds, "a mode of travelling more common formerly than at present;" so I gather that in 1820, when the first edition of the *Glossary* was reprinted from vol. xix. of the "Archæologia," it was still occasionally customary for women to ride to market in that fashion, but that the custom was even then becoming obsolete. COLONEL LEIGH in his *Glossary* adds, "now absolutely defunct, 1875;" which might lead one to suppose that the name and the custom had survived almost to that time, which certainly was not the case. *Halliwel* gives "Stockport Coach" as a north-country word, without confining it to Cheshire; and it is possible that as Stockport would be the principal market town for a great part of Cheshire, Lancashire, Derbyshire, and a portion,

perhaps, of Yorkshire, the name might extend into those counties; but *Ray* does not include it in his "North Country Words." Stopport, or to be quite correct, 'Stopput,' is still the local pronunciation of STOCKPORT.

I hope some reader of THE SHEAF will be able to furnish the words of the ballad alluded to by "Senex," or say where it is to be found.

ROBERT HOLLAND.

Norton Hill, Runcorn.

[1690] A CHESHIRE 17TH CENTURY GIPSY.

[No. 1670.—Jan. 18th, 1882.]

We have just been favoured with a novel communication, in the shape of an Original Letter in the Romani dialect, in reference to an article printed in THE SHEAF a fortnight ago, which from assurances we have received seems to have created much interest among our readers. We trust some qualified correspondent will add to the value of the Letter by furnishing his brethren with a translation of it.

EDITOR.]

"Lilengri Palor Earwaker te Hughes,—Dikdum boot Rómani divvusor. Kanna tarno keray, dikdum boot Boswellundy opray drummor adráy Yorkshire. Kanaw, poorodér adráy Cheshire Tem, ahunaw booti Romani lavvor te navvor,—kekke Durbarre. Mawr pooker mandi Rumbold Durbarre se Romano Nav, pooro y nevvó; mawr pen ajaw: mawr tohiv lesti apopli adráy lilor: me jinaw ferradér. O Romano mush se kekke Kerjivver, Givengro, Kalengro, dra poori béshor. O Nav Durbarre,—se lesti Peerdú, Posah Romano? Kek pooro Romano rut: me jinov duvvaw. Romani Foki kidivvus, adray covvo Cheshire Tem, lelenna Lee nav. Drasor meeri merriben me kekke shundum Durbarre, Romano nav: kekke, kekke. O Romano Krallas, Aaron Lee, suvella aky, adráy meero Congry-poorv. Booti unli Romani Foki, Mush te Monishny. Dada Dy te tohavvy, venna kidivvus te janna oday; peerenna adral leskro mullino kár; dikenna sawr suvella, o pooro Krallas, apallo Congry-Poor-tohaw, divvus te ráti, tatto te shillo, kindo te shukko, besh te besh. Pardel, opray leskro mullino burr, o Gorjiko Congry-Ry tchivdas kooshki lavvor avrére Divvuleskro Lil. Dawdy! Dawdy! Kushko Bok, Gorjiki Palor.—Kushko Bok, Lilengri.

Pen tatchopen adray lilor. Tahitoche se ferradér."

Wrenbury.

T. W. N.

[1691] SANDON CHURCH.

[No. 1675.—January 18, 1882.]

There is an old Church, well worth a visit, at SANDON, near Stone, in Staffordshire. Lord Sandon's seat is at Sandon Hall, near Stafford. Perhaps this is the Church your correspondent "ÆRICOLA" is anxious to know something of.

CESTRIAN.

FEBRUARY 15, 1882.

Original Documents.

[1692] WILL OF JOHN FITTON OF CHESTER,
ALDERMAN.

An early 17th century Will is always a curious compilation, and often an instructive and suggestive one. So different from the high and dry, stiff and formal documents of a later day, the Tudor or Stuart testator makes the reader his confidant as it were, and talks to him with the utmost familiarity about his faith, his family, his property, and even about his clothes; nay, is as particular who shall wear his old fur cloak, as he is who shall step metaphorically into his shoes.

JOHN FITTON OF CHESTER, Alderman, was evidently one of those painful and chatty scribes who having lived happily and long with his family and friends, does not die like a dog and forget them, but leaves them each some cause to remember him with respect when he is gone. The original Will is somewhat lengthy, so perhaps a pretty full abstract may best suit the requirements of THE SHEAF. We owe the abstract to the industry of the late Mr. Bridger, genealogist, of London, but it is communicated to these pages by Mr. J. PAUL RYLANDS, F.S.A., of Thelwall:—

WILL OF JOHN FITTON, OF THE CITY OF CHESTER,
ALDERMAN.

Desires to be buried in the parish church of St. PETER, "as near unto my coosen, VALENTYNE BROUGHTON, lately deceased, as may be." "To Ellen, my wife, the house wherein I now dwell," &c., for her life; then to my son, JOHN FITTON, and his heirs, with remainder to the right heirs of the said John Fitton, my son, for ever," &c. "To my son Edward all those lands which I purchased of Richard Cotton, of Warblington, co: Southampton, Esqr., and Mary, his wife, in Huntingdon [Huntington] and Shotwicke, co: Chester, after six years." "All my goods (not as executor of the will of Valentyne Broughton) I give to my wife one third part, to the said John Fitton one half of the other two parts, of my farm and mills in Trafford, and the other moiety to my children equally. To my son Edward the lease of my shop in Bridge Street, in the City of Chester, which I hold by grant of Richard Hartley, and £80., besides £20., the gift of Valentyne Broughton." "To my son John £80., besides £20., the gift of Valentyne Broughton, in lieu of the child's portion other than is contained in this will. To my daughter Jane, for her preferment in marriage, and her child's portion, 800 marks. To every other my four daughters, namely, Katherine, Sarah, Amy, and Elizabeth, £100. each, at marriage, all in satisfaction of their child's portions, besides £20., to each, the gift of Valentyne Broughton. To my daughter, Anne Cotgrave, £120, whereof Mr. Broughton left her £20., as her child's part. To Elizabeth Dod, her daughter, £40., which the said

Valentyne Broughton left her. To Ellise Williams' my said daughter's son, £20. The residue to my wife and children, viz: John, Edward, Jane, Katherine, Sarah, Amy, and Elizabeth.

Whereas I was executor with Richard Bayant, late of the City of Chester, Alderman, deceased, of the will of Valentyne Broughton, the said Richard Bayant, now dead, desired the executors to perform the said will," &c. "To my son-in-law [. . .] Cotgrave" "my grogeram gowne w'oh is garded w'ith vellvet." To my son John Fitton "my scarlet gowne faced w'ith vellvet." "To my son Edward Fitton "my violet gowne." "To my cousin, Edward Kitchin, "my blacke gowne faced w'ith foynes." To my cousin, Charles Fitton, a piece of plate of the value of £5. To my loving friend, John Mousdale, my black gelding." To my well beloved cousin, William Aldersey, Alderman, a piece of plate. To Mr. Cryer, the preacher, or such a one as shall use the place, £2. To the Mayor and Citizens of the City of Chester, "one piece of plate, namely, a salt of the valewe of £6 : 13 : 4., w'ith this ingraven:— "*The gwyft of John fitton, of Chester, Alderm.*" Requests to servants. "I appoint my cousin, Edward Kitchin, and executors, and my loving friends, Mr. William Aldersaie, Alderman, and overseers." Not witnessed, Administration granted to John Fitton, the son, 11th November, 1605.

We know some little of the testator, but cannot quite make out to which particular family he belonged. He was admitted a Freeman of Chester city in 11th Elizabeth, 1568, being then a member of the Ironmongers' Company. Thirteen years afterwards, in 1581, he served the office of Sheriff of the city, just at the time when the parishioners of St. John's were busy building up the east end of their church after they had acquired it from the Queen. He became Mayor of Chester in 1592, and was a prominent Alderman and Justice there for over twelve years, until his death in 1605. He or his wife, Ellen, was cousin to the venerable Christopher Goodman, the Reformer, and was one of the witnesses to his will. Mrs. Fitton's legacy from the celebrated preacher was, as he writes it, "the greates cheeste in the streete cha'ber w'oh I boughte of hir father, and gave him xs. for the same, besides vija. the looke and keye cost; and the little table I leave to her, w'oh mye wives mind was shee should have. To mye coosin hir husband, the Booke of M'ters." He (Mr. Goodman) was within an ace of being one of the Martyrs himself!

Alderman FITTON was buried at St. Peter's Church, Chester, where a brass plate existed in the middle of the 17th century, with the following inscription:—

"Here lyeth the body of John Fitton, late Alderman and sometymes Maior of this City, who deceased the third day of October, an'o d'ni 1605.

The world esteemed him well, and when he was at best

God took him hence, (amongst his friends he could no longer rest.)"

EDITOR.

Notes.

[1693] THE PILLORY AT CHESTER.

In an old *Directory and Guide of the City and County of Chester*, now lying before me, which I see from the title page was published in 1789, almost a century ago, I find the following notice of the PILLORY, which may be worth making a note of in THE CHESHIRE SHEAF:—

"Adjoining to the *Conduit* is that ignominious elevation stiled The PILLORY; but in compliment to the city, we mention, that no person has been ambitious enough to aspire to so eminent an honour for nearly twenty years past; and not more than three or four since the commencement of the present century."

Two facts strike me on copying out this sentence for your columns: first, that the PILLORY was a permanent erection,—a fixture,—at the always overcrowded High Cross! and secondly, that it was a punishment so seldom employed at CHESTER, that four times only had offenders stood there during ninety years, to face the angry gibes and assaults of the citizens! It was scarcely worth the while, one would think, to have encumbered the upper corner of Bridge-street with such an unworthy ornament for so lengthened a period.

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

Queries.

[1694] CHESTER CATHEDRAL JACKDAWS.

When some fifty years younger than I am now, I used to watch with boyish interest the movements of the sable birds that then flourished in and about the crumbling and orannied walls of CHESTER Cathedral. The Jackdaws' nests were up far away out of ordinary reach; but the increase in the population was at times so great, and the birds made such havoc in the spongy and perishing stone, that a raid had each season to be made upon them to keep the colony down. Long ladders were projected at all sorts of angles, and a dozen or two eager marauders pursued their deadly mission at the mouths of the principal nests. I'm afraid I was myself at such times one of the foremost invaders of the poor birds' territory, and have gone home at night laden with the spoil of their young.

But all this by the way. My present object is to ascertain if I can from some one who took an interest in the matter, at what date did the Jackdaw vanish from the Cathedral close, and to what other locality did he then transfer his patronage and acquaintance?

RARA AVIS.

[1695] THE CORONATION FEAST.

What has become of this Feast, which used annually to be held in the Exchange at Chester, but which I think has never been heard of of late, at all events under that royal title?

A SHERIFF IN POSSE.

Replies.

[1696] MR. LANE'S CHESTER MIRACLE.

[No. 1641, 1649.—May 25, June 1, 1881.]

This remarkable case, which seems to have set the whole city of CHESTER by the ears in the days of good Queen Bess, has had its counterpart hundreds of times in medical experience; and there are probably few practitioners of the present day who have not met with examples more or less resembling that which succumbed to the treatment of the pious Mr. LANE.

Curiously enough, almost the very week when THE SHEAF was amusing, if not astounding, its readers with the Chester case of the year 1564, the doctors of MASSACHUSETTS were discussing a very similar "visitation" said to have occurred at Roxbury, in that State, in 1632. The two, indeed, have so much in common that your correspondents will like, I should think, to compare them.

The *Lancet* for August 13, quoting from the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* of June 23, gives the following humorous account of

AN HYSTERICAL SPINE. (P)

At the Centenary Festival Dinner of the Massachusetts Medical Society, held at Boston on June 8th, the following admirably penned letter from Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes was read by the Rev. Geo. E. Ellis, who at the close of his speech made these remarks:—

"On the church records of the revered old Indian apostle and pastor at Roxbury, John Eliot, I find this entry, under date of 1632:—

'Mary Chase, the wife of William Chase, had a paralitik humor, wh. fell into her backbone, so that she could not stir her body but as she was lifted, and filled her with great torture, & caused her back to get out of joynt and bunch out from ye beginning to the end; of wh. infirmity she lay four years & a half, and a greater part of the time a sad spectacle of misery. But it pleased God to raise her again, & she bore children after it.'

"I have submitted this case professionally to Dr. Holmes. As your proclivities will lead you to prefer the doctor's account of it to the apostle's, I will read it to you as the close of my speech.

"296, Beacon street, June 3rd, 1881.

"MY DEAR DR. ELLIS,—A consultation without seeing the patient is like a murder trial without the *corpus delicti* being in evidence. You remember the story of Mr. Jeremiah Mason, and a witness who had had a vision in which the angel Gabriel informed him of some important facts—'Subpoena the angel Gabriel.' So I should say, 'Carry us to the bedside of Mary Chase'; but she has been under green bedclothes so long that I am afraid she would be hard to wake up.

"We must guess as well as we can under the circumstances. The question is, whether she had angular curvature, lateral curvature, or no curvature at all. If the first, angular curvature, you must consult such authorities as Bryant, Druitt, and the rest. If you are not satisfied with these modern writers, all I have to say is, as I have said before, when asked whom to consult in such cases, Go to Pott!—to Percival Pott—the famous surgeon of the last century, from whom this affection has received the name by which it is still well known of 'Pott's disease'; for if a doctor has the luck to find out a new malady it is tied to his name like a tin-kettle to a dog's tail, and he goes clattering down the highway of fame to posterity with his spolian attachment following at his heels.

"As for lateral curvature, if that had existed, it seems as if the apostle Eliot would have said, she bulged sideways, or something like that, instead of saying the backbone bunched out from beginning to end. Besides, I doubt if lateral curvature is apt to cause paralysis. Crooked backs are everywhere, as tailors and dressmakers know; and nobody expects to be palsied because one shoulder is higher than the other—as Alexander the Great's was, and Alexander Pope's also.

"I doubt whether Mary Chase had any real curvature at all. Her case looks to me like one of those *nimoses*, as Marshall Hall called certain forms of hysteria which imitate different diseases, among the rest paralysis. The body of an hysterical patient will take on the look of all sorts of more serious affections. As for mental and moral manifestations, an hysterical girl will lie so that Sapphira would blush for her, and she could give lessons to a professional pickpocket in the art of stealing. Hysteria might well be described as possession—possession by seven devils, except that this number is quite insufficient to account for all the pranks played by the subjects of this extraordinary malady.

"I do not want to say anything against Mary Chase; but I suspect that, getting nervous and tired and hysterical, she got into bed, which she found rather agreeable after too much housework, and perhaps too much going to meeting; liked it better and better, curled herself up into a bunch, which made her look as if her back was really distorted; found she was cosseted and possessed, and prayed over, and made much of; and so lay quiet until a false paralysis caught hold of her legs, and held her there. If some one had 'hollered' Fire! it is not

unlikely that she would have jumped out of bed, as many other such paralytics have done under such circumstances. She could have moved, probably enough, if anyone could have made her believe that she had the power of doing it. *Possumus quia posse videmur*. She had played *possum* so long, that at last it became *non possum*.

"Your's very truly,

"O. W. HOLMES, M.D."

The writer of this characteristic letter, Dr. OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, is the author of that delicious book "The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table," which has as great a reputation on this as on the other side of the Atlantic.

The inference from all this seems to be (says a medical friend whose judgment I esteem), that Mr. LANE'S CHESTER patient was suffering from some unusual form of *hysteria*, requiring the assertion of a will more powerful and determined than her own to grapple with it successfully. The good old parson evidently possessed that power, and asserted it too with charming persistency, and with what result his own pen has very graphically told us. T. HUGHES.

[1697] A CHESHIRE 17TH CENTURY GIPSY.

[No. 1670.—Jan. 18, 1882.]

The note on this subject by Mr. HUGHES is very striking, when read with Mr. EARWAKER'S extract from the Inventory of RUMWELL DURBAR'S goods, altho' "a cartè with furniture" does not signify a caravan such as Gipsies now affect. The name is an odd one, suitable to 'a stranger of what country soever.' It is not a Gipsy name nowadays, but no more are the following ascertained Romany names:—

1505 Anthony Gawin

1510 Sebastian Lakow, Anteane Dones, Satona Fango, Nona Finco, Phillip Hatfeyggow, Towia Bailow, Graata Neyn, Geleyr Bailow, Bernard Beige, Demer Matakalla, Nottaw Lawlowr, Martyne Femine,

1545 Phillipe Lazer,

1549 John Roland,

1559 James Kyncoowe, George Kyncoowe, Andrew Christo, Thomas Gabriells, Robert Johanny, John Lallowe, Christopher Lawrence, Richard Concow.

1577 Rowland Gabriel, Katherine Deago (Diego).

1592 Simson, Arington, Fetherstone, Fenwicke, Lancaster.

1598 Charles, Oliver, and Bartholomew Baptist.

In 1569 an *Elizabeth Lee* is recorded under circumstances that render it very probable that she was a Gipsy.

In December, 1587, THOMAS (LORD) CRUMWELL, wrote to 'my Lorde of Chestre, president of the Counsaile of the Marches of Wales' respecting "Egipoyans" (Ellis, *Letters on English Hist.*, 1824 1st series, vol. ii., No. 187, p. 100). The following is a copy of the Letter as printed:—

"After my right hartie commendacions : whereas the Kinges maiestie, about a twelfmoneth past, gave a pardonne to a company of lewd personnes within this realme calling themselves Gipoyns for a most shamfull and detestable murder commytted amonges them ; with a speciall proviso inserted by their owne consentes that onles they shuld avoyde this his Graces realme by a certeyn daye, long sythens expired, yt shuld be lawfull to all his Graces offyours to hang them in all places of his realme where they myght be apprehended, without any further examynacion or tryal after forme of the lawe, as in their letters patentes of the said pardon is expressed. His Grace heere tell that they doo yet lynger here within his realme, not avoyding the same according to his commaundement and their owne promes, and that albeit his poore subjects be dayly spoyled robbed and deceyved by them, yet his Highnes officers and ministres, lytle regarding their duties towards his Majestye, doo permyt them to lynger and loyter in all partyes and to exercise all their falsshodes felonyes and treasons unpunished, hathe commaunded me to sygnifie unto youe, that his most drede commaundement is that ye shall laye diligent espiall throughowte all the partes there aboutes youe and the shires next adjoyning, whether any of the sayd personnes calling themselves Egipoyns, or that hathe heretofore called themselves Egipyans, shall fortune to enter or travayle in the same. And in case youe shall here or knowe of any suche, be they men or women, that ye shall compell them to repair to the next porte of the see to the place where they shalbe taken, and eyther wythout delaye uppon the first wynde that may conveye them into any parte of beyond the sees to take shipping, and to passe to owtward partyes, or if they shall in any wise breke that commaundement without any traist to see them executed according to the Kinges Highnes sayd Lettres patentes remaynyng of recorde in his chauncery, which with these shalbe your discharge in that behaulf, not fayling to accomplishe the tenour hereof with all effect and diligence, without sparing uppon any commyssion licence or placarde that they may shewe or alledge for themselves to the contrary, as ye tender his Graces pleasor, which also ys that youe shall gyve notyce to all the Justices of Peax in that Countye where youe resyde and the Shires adjoynant that they may accomplishe the tenour hereof accordingly. Thus flare ye hertely wel ; From the Neate the vth day of December the xxixth yere of his Ma'ties most noble regne.

Yor louyng freende

THOMAS CRUMWELL.

To my very good lorde my lorde of
Chester, president of the counsaile
of the Marches of Wales."

The Act passed in 1554 includes Gipsies "in England and Wales." In 1649 Richard Smith, Barbara Smith his wife, Francois Parker, Elizabeth Parker, and Elizabeth Grey, with their infants, were tried at York, and Richard admitted he had been in Newgate and had since wandered with his company through Hereford-

shire, Stafford, Salop, Cheshire, and Lancashire. (*Surtees Society*, vol. xl., p. 27.) About 1650, Gipsies were caught near Holywell, and executed. (Pennant, *History of Whiteford and Holywell*, 1796, p. 35.)

At your challenge I append a translation of the 'Gipsy Letter' from T. W. N., published in THE SHEAF of a fortnight ago:—

"Book Brothers Earwaker and Hughes,—I saw many Gipsies (in former) days. When (I was) young at home, I saw many Boswells on the roads in Yorkshire ; Now, (that I am) older in Cheshire Land, I hear many Gipsy words and names,—not *Durbarre*. Do not tell me *Rumbold Durbarre* is a Gipsy name, old or new ; do not say so : do not put it again in books,—I know better. The Gipsy man is no house-dweller, farmer, cheesemaker, in old years. The name *Durbarre*,—is it Tramp, Half Gipsy ? No old Gipsy blood : I know that. Gipsy people to-day, in this Cheshire Land, take Lee (as a) name. In all my life I never heard *Durbarre* (as a) Gipsy name : no, no. The Gipsy King, *Aaron Lee*, sleeps here, in my church-yard. Many amongst the Gipsy people, man and woman, fathers, mother, and children, come to-day to go there ; they walk through his vault (dead-house) ; they see all he sleeps, the old King, under the church-yard grass, day and night, hot and cold, wet and dry, year and year. (More) over, on his dead stone, the non-gipsy minister (lit. church-gentleman) put good words out of God's book. See ! see ! Good luck, non-gipsy brothers ; good luck, authors !

Tell truth in books. Nothing is better."

Manchester.

H. T. CROFTON.

The letter is a striking instance that the old Gipsy tongue is not the villainous jargon some would have it to be ; seeing that here a message has been conveyed to me, two hundred miles and more away,—a message unintelligible to fully 99 per cent. of the human race ! With "T. W. N.'s" conclusions as to the name *Durbarre* I myself agree, unless there be very strong evidence as to its bearer having been really of Gipsy origin. But will "T. W. N." furnish to THE SHEAF a brief account of Aaron Lee's burial, with any notices of others of the race who may have been christened, married, or buried at Wrenbury ? I can promise him at least one curious reader.

Edinburgh.

STANYAMENGEO.

I am quite content to accept the authority of those well versed in such matters that *Durbarre* is not at present known as a Gipsy name. But the question still remains, who was the *Rumbold Durbarre* of 1627 ? He was clearly enough not a Cheshire man. Nor is the name apparently Irish or Scotch, nor even French or German. "A tramp or half-breed" would most probably take a simpler name, nor would such a person be likely to be so well-to-do as *Rumbold Durbarre* certainly was. Possessing "a cart with furniture" and making baskets, &c., shows that he was of a roving

disposition, but I am far more inclined to believe that in those days Gipsies had names of their own before they adopted the common English names of Boswell, Lee, &c., than to think that this man was no Gipsy at all.

Pensarn.

J. P. EARWATER.

MARCH 1, 1882.

Original Documents.

[1698] RELIGIOUS TROUBLES IN CHESHIRE.

In May of last year, while on a short visit to CAMBRIDGE, I was permitted by HENRY BRADSHAW, Esq., M.A., the courteous Librarian of the University Library, to consult and make extracts from such MSS. under his charge as contained any matter of interest relating to Cheshire. I there fell in with a couple of Letters, copied into a volume by a scribe of the period, which seem to me to be well worthy of being safely embalmed in THE SHEAF.

The first of the two letters was from the pen of Sir Francois Walsingham, and was addressed to the EARL OF DERBY, Chamberlain of CHESHIRE, and to the Bishop of the diocese, DR. CHADERTON, as heads locally of the Church and of the State. It occurs in the MS. Vol. endorsed "Baker 28, M m. 1, 39," and runs as follows:—

"To the Rt. Hon'. &c. Therle of Derby, & to the L. B'p of Chester.

My Verie good L'L'. Understandinge that there ys a Gentleman, named Richard Massye, sonne to one Massye, dwellinge in the parishe of Aldford, within the Countie of Chester, nere unto the Citie of Chester, who is of late come from beyond the Seas from Rome, and remayneth with his Father at the place afores'd, havinge recourse to suspected places and familiarity with illaffected persons since his arrivall; & as I hear, intendethe to make another iorney to the place from whence he came, verie shortlie as maye be gathered, to some evill purpose, not meete for a good Subiect; I have thought good to praye youre L'L' to take present order for his stay and apprehens'on, as also for the searchinge of his fathers House, and Imprisonment of the partye, till your L'L' shall have advertised hither; & received thereupon further directi'on in that behalf. And because I am enformed, he dwelleth nere to S'r Edward Fitton, & is his Tenaunt, I thinke yt verie requisite, & could wishe, that youre L'L's should use him as an Assistance in this Course. And thus not doubtinge of youre L'L' carefullnesse in the discharge hereof, I humble take my leave, At the Court, the 17th of Januarye, 1583.

Yours L'L' to commande,

FRA: WALSHINGHAM."

The person about whose religious zeal and loyalty Sir Francis was expressing so anxious a concern was (as I gather from a volume of pedigrees belonging to the present venerable owner of CODDINGTON), RICHARD, son of ROBERT MASSEY (or MASSIE), of ALDFORD, living according to that evidence in 1566, but whether very closely related to the Coddington stock I cannot state.

Richard the son, and the object of Walsingham's nervousness, having recently arrived warm and fresh from the Vatican, was naturally looked askance on by the churchmen then at the head of affairs, though his loyalty perhaps was no more justly to be questioned than was their own.

Mr. MASSIE, conceiving blood to be thicker than water, appealed to his fellow countyman, Sir CHRISTOPHER HATTON, to help him in his need, which he seems to have done with both spirit and effect; for the same MS. Letter Book, already referred to in this article, contains the following letter from the royal favourite, which no doubt set the Earl and Bishop thinking as to the most advisable course to pursue. Influence and expediency played their parts in national affairs then, as some people will have it they now and again do still.

Reverting to the MS. in question, we read:—

"To the Rt. Hon'. &c., the Erle of Derby and the L. B'p of Chester.

My very good Lords,

Whereas I am enformed that youre LL's have taken Bonds of Richard Massie of the County of Chester, Gent., to appeare before you, concerninge matters Ecclesiasticall, at the Feast of St Bartholomewe next, I am moved upon some considrac'on, but speciallie in hope of his Conformity and better disposition to her Ma'ties proceedings hereafter, then he hath shewed heretofore, to intreat your LL's to be pleased once againe to extend your favour towards him, as namely upon the renewinge of his Bonds, to forbeare his appearance before you untill Candlemas next; by wch tyme I am perswaded, your LL' shall fynde such token of Reformac'on in him, as I trust you shall thinke your goodnes herein well bestowed in hime, and be glad of this course of lenitie taken presently with hime, in hope of his amendment. wherein, prayinge your LL's favourable acceptac'on of this my request, I comende you, as my self, to the grace of Allmightye God. From ye Courts at Richmond the 23th of June, 1584.

Your Good LL' very lovinge assured Frend,
CHR'. HATTON."

What became of this local squabble in Church and State does not appear on record in the Cambridge University Library, but there is little doubt that Sir Christopher's powerful influence was quite enough to shelter RICHARD MASSIE; and it may be presumed that, as his family were afterwards good Conformists, he must have led the way by exhibiting "such token of Reformac'on" as made their lordships think their "goodnes herein well bestowed on hime," and so let him go free.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1699] THE TRAJAN TABLETS AT BICKLEY.

ORMEROD, in his *History of Cheshire*, vol. iii., p. 361, records that

"In a field in this township (BICKLEY) belonging to Lord KENYON, and adjoining to the 'Barrel Farm,' were found, in 1812, two inscribed copper tablets, containing a decree of Trajan in favour of certain veterans serving in Britain, in eleven alae, and four cohorts, under the Proprætor Q. Nereus Marcellus. The tablets are deposited in the British Museum, and have been elegantly engraved in the *Reliquiæ Britanico Romanæ* of Lysons."

Copies of the inscriptions on the plates are given at length by ORMEROD.

The *Barhill Farm*, which belongs to Lord CHOLMONDELEY, is part in BICKLEY and part in TUSHINGHAM, the homestead being in the latter township. On a reference to the Field Ordnance Map of Cheshire (sheet 1x., 12, Bickley, Broxton Hundred, and which embraces part of the adjoining township of Tushingham), it will be observed that a field in BICKLEY, No. 572, is marked "Roman Tablets found." This, no doubt, refers to the above, but on what authority the Ordnance surveyors marked this inclosure as the *precise* spot does not appear. It is not defined by ORMEROD, nor does he offer any information or conjecture to account for the finding of such relics in this part of CHESHIRE, and I am not aware of any writer on Roman Britain who does.

As these Tablets did not drop from the clouds, it is an interesting question whether or not there was a "Station" in the locality, or anything to account for the Tablets being found there. Towards a solution of this, I beg to offer the following observations:—

The field indicated on the map has nothing characteristic of a "Station," but the contrary: it is comparatively low, and would, naturally, be a swamp. It certainly is not a spot likely to have been selected for a defensive position. The Tablets, however, might have been accidentally lost there, and so got buried and out of sight. Whether Lord KENYON owned land in BICKLEY, as stated by ORMEROD, I don't know; but he owned, at the time, considerable property in TUSHINGHAM, one part of which adjoined the Bar-hill Farm, and was afterwards sold to Lord CHOLMONDELEY.

No. 572 is on the Tushingham boundary. About 350 yards more south (in TUSHINGHAM), is a field No. 25 on the Map, having the triangular mark of the Ordnance Survey, indicating its having been selected and used as a station for the Survey. This alone marks its *prominence*. It is, in great part, a conical hill. As now enclosed, the field is 15½ acres, and would be best

described as a square with the N.W. corner cut off. The northern and southern boundaries are deep ravines, which extend for some thirty or more yards beyond the present fence W. At the head of each of these ravines is a copious spring. On the E. side, on the slope and near the foot of the hill, the field has been intersected the entire length by what must have been, originally, a considerable cutting. This is shewn on the map by shading, and so marked as to be observable at a considerable distance. It may have been, sometime, utilized as a fence between the hilly and the plane portions of the field; but such a cutting would have been useless waste of labour simply for a fence. West the present boundary is an ordinary hedge and ditch; but about 30 yards beyond this there is a slight deflection in the ground, running N. and S. towards the heads of the ravines. This would have no significance, however, unconnected with the above details.

This field is in close proximity to the homestead of the farm; and assuming it to have been a "Roman Station"—it has every characteristic of one—here is at once the origin of the name of the farm, and, in the name, a history of the hill itself—Bar-hill, signifying a fortified hill,—Bar-mere will also have derived its name from its neighbourhood. Several instances might be given in which "Bar" has this signification; one, however, may be mentioned, given in a foot note to the word "barbican" in *Promptorium Parvulorum* (Camden Society's Edition), where the Editor observes:—"The best specimens of the outworks to which this name was given, were at York, and called the 'Bars,' of which one still exists in good preservation."

It is a coincidence worthy of note that, in the valley below this hill E., are the Willow Farm and Willow Moor; and that in a valley on the S.E. side of the Wrekin are the Willow Farm and Willow Moor, of which Hartshorne in his *Salopia Antiqua* (p. 192), says: "A small valley at the foot still shows by its name of Willow Moor, by its existing tumuli, and by the great quantity of broken weapons that have been found there, that the spot was formerly contested. Its appellation of Willow is significant. In the termination 'low' direct allusion is made to the tumuli which render the place still remarkable."

The discovery of these TRAJAN TABLETS in the locality being unquestioned, how far the facts here stated serve to elucidate the presence of them there, I must leave for the consideration of your readers.

Tushingham Hall.

B. LL. V.

[1700] CHESHIRE SALT MANUFACTURE IN 1674.

In 1674, JOHN RAY, the celebrated Naturalist, published his *Collection of English Words*, followed by a second edition of the work in 1691. In addition to an alphabetical list of words, RAY introduced several chapters on preparing and refining English metals and

minerals, one of which described "the making of Salt at NAMPTWYCH in Cheshire." The work was reprinted and issued by the "English Dialect Society." I can find no reference to the chapter on Salt-making in either ORMEROD's or LYSONS' works. Colonel EGBERTON LEIGH, in his edition of Wilbraham's *Glossary*, evidently made use of it. Under these circumstances, I think the chapter (as quoted from the Dialect Society's volume) will be found interesting to the readers of THE SHEAF.

"THE MAKING OF SALT AT NAMPTWYCH IN
CHESHIRE.

The salt spring, or (as they call it) the *brine-pit*, is near the river; and is so plentiful, that were all the water boiled out that it would afford (as they told us), it would yield salt enough for all *England*. The lords of the pit appoint how much shall be boiled as they see occasion, that the trade be not clogged.

Divers persons have interest in the brine-pit, so that it belongs not all to one lord; some have one lead-wall, some two, some three, some four, or more.

N.B.—A *lead-wall* is the brine of twenty-four hours' boiling for one house.

Two hundred and sixteen lead-wallings, or thereabout, belong to all the owners of the pit. No tradesman, batchelor, or widow, can rent more than eighteen lead-wallings.

They have four sworn officers chosen yearly, which they call *occupiers of walling*, whose duty is to see equal dealing between lord and tenant, and all persons concerned. They appoint how many houses shall work at a time, and that is twelve at the most. When there is occasion for salt to be made, they cause a crier to make proclamation, that so all parties concerned may put to their fires at the same time; and so when they shall cease at a determinate hour, at which they must give over; else they cause their salt to be marred by casting dirt into it, or the like.

There are in the town about fifty houses, and every house hath four pans, which the rulers are to see be exactly of the same measure.

Salt-water taken out of the *brine-pit*, in two hours and a quarter boiling, will be evaporated and boiled up into salt. When the liquor is more than lukewarm, they take strong ale, bullock's blood, and whites of eggs mixed together with brine in this proportion: if one blood, one egg-shell full, the white of one egg, and a pint of ale, and put it into a pan of twenty-four gallons or thereabouts. The whites of the eggs, and the blood, serve to clarify the brine by raising the scum, which they take off just upon the boiling of the pans, otherwise it will boil in, and spoil the salt. The older the blood is, the better it is, *ceteris paribus*. They do not always put in blood, viz., when there is danger of the liquor's boiling too fast. If the liquor happens to boil too fast, they take, to allay it, brine that had been boil'd and drain'd from the salt: crude brine, they say, will diminish their salt. The ale serves, they said, to harden the corn of the salt.

After one hour boiling, the brine will begin to corn: then they take a small quantity of clear ale, and sprinkle thereof into the pan about one egg-shell full (Note: If you put in too much, it will make the broth boil over the pan). All the while before they put in the last ale, they cause the pan to boil as fast as they can; afterwards very gently, till the salt be almost dry. They do not evaporate *ad siccitatem*, but leave about a pottle or gallon of brine in the pan, lest the salt should burn, and stick to the sides of the pan.

The brine thus sufficiently boiled and evaporated, they take out the salt, and put it into conical baskets (which they call *barrows*) and in them let the water drain from it an hour, more or less, and then set it to dry in the hot-house behind the furnace.

A *barrow*, containing six pecks, is sold there for 1s. 4d.

Out of two pans of forty-eight gallons they expect seven pecks of salt, *Winchester measure*.

Note: The house in which the salt is boiled is called the *Wych-house*; whence may be guessed what *wych* signifies, and why all those towns where there are salt-springs and salt made are called by the name of *wych*, viz., *Namptwych*, *Northwych*, *Middlewych*, *Droitwych*. The vessel whereinto the brine is by troughs conveyed from the brine-pit, is called the *ship*. It is raised up out of the pit by a pump. Between the furnace and the chimney-tunnels, which convey up the smoak, is the hot-house where they set their salt to dry; along the floor whereof run two funnels from the furnaces, almost parallel to the horizon, and then arise perpendicularly; in these the flame and smoak running along from the furnaces heat the room by the way.

Anno 1670, a rock of natural salt, from which issues a vigorous sharp brine, was discovered in *Cheshire*, in the ground of *William Marbury, Esq.*: the rock, which is as pure as allom, and when pulverized, a fine and sharp salt, is between thirty-three and thirty-four yards distant from the surface of the earth. Mountains of fossile salt are found in *Hungary*, *Transilvania*, *Lithuania*, &c."

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood, Surrey.

Queries.

[1701]

ST. ALBAN.

Can you tell me what association (if any) ST. ALBAN the Martyr had with Cheshire? I don't think he was a native of the county; but I seem to remember that he was in some shape connected with the locality, though, *unlike* Captain Cuttle, I failed to "make a note of it."

CAMERO-BRITON.

[1702] MAIDEN CASTLE.

On a commanding position upon the Bickerton Hills, near MALPAS, stands the site of a very early camp, for centuries known as MAIDEN CASTLE. Who was the Amazonian patriot who thus allied herself territorially with our county, yet was too modest to leave us her name? Y. O. M.

[1703] PRESTON, CHESHIRE.

Among the many Prestons scattered over the country, we have two in Cheshire,—PRESTON-ON-THE HILL, and PRESTON BROOK. Why have we two, and how far back can the places be traced in local history? CESTRIAN.

[1704] BELLS.

In the January number of "The Magazine of Art," there appears a pleasant article entitled "A chat about Bells," by the Rev. H. B. Haweis. He mentions that "Chester bells sent out a merry peal, alternated with one deep toll, to signal Nelson's triumph and death at Trafalgar." I presume the Cathedral Bells are referred to, and that the incident has long been known as an interesting fact to some of your readers. Is it not quite worth recording in the CHESHIRE SHEAF? In the same article Mr. HAWEIS says:—"A curious old social use of bells survives in the Curfew . . .

. . . It has survived to this day in the Fen districts of Oxford and Cambridge, as a guide to travellers out on the marshes; and is still rung every night, not without benefit to the weary pedestrian as he trudges home to college through the autumnal fog." The subject of the Curfew was started in the SHEAF some time ago, but did not receive the attention which I think its interest deserves. "The curfew tolls the knell of parting day," with more or less regularity from the steeple of ASTBURY church; and it would, I am sure, be an interesting feature if a list of other Cheshire churches, where the practice still obtains, could be furnished in the CHESHIRE SHEAF.

Mow Cop.

G. H.

[1705] DOT!—A CHESHIRE RHYME.

In a north-Cheshire village last week I heard the following patter-like Rhyme drawn out by a lot of noisy youngsters of both sexes, joined hand in hand. They were gyrating round a lad in the centre of the road, and who I presume stood for "DOT":—

"Dun yo' wot 'oo wur Dot?"—

"He wur not a bad lot!"—

"Whereabouts wur his oot?"—

"Oi'n forgot'n to jot!"

At the conclusion of the rhyme, the prisoner put out his open hand; and the one he then touched stepped into the circle, and became "Dot" himself, until he in turn was relieved, when the noisy wheel went on as before. Is there any local meaning traceable in this child's rhyme?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

Replies.

[1706] A CRAPE SUIT.

[No. 1022.—Feb. 11, 1880.]

I should take it as pretty certain that the "crape suit" bought by the Barbers' Company at Chester, was a bat-band and scarf of crape, completed with a pair of black gloves, to be worn by the senior alderman of the Company at the funerals of deceased brethren, and worn for the first time, perhaps, at the burial of "Brother Hiccock." I have seen an old engraving that had been circulated after such a funeral, showing a view of the procession moving towards the church, the chief mourner clad in his sable suit of crape,—the plate being in many other respects not unlike the Memorial Cards still popular on such occasions in our own days. NOAH.

[1707] "THE PRETTIEST VILLAGE IN CHESHIRE."

[No. 1674.—January 18, 1882.]

As a constant reader of THE SHEAF, I think the village of MAREBURY, near Whitechurch, may lay claim to being "The prettiest village in Cheshire." Its situation is unusually picturesque; wood, and water, and undulating ground, all combine to render it attractive. The church and churchyard, with its old yew-trees, looking down upon the fine "Mere," are objects of great beauty. The "Old Hall" (now a farmhouse) must not be forgotten when describing the beauties of "MAREBURY village." It is a great ornament to the place; and is a good specimen of the "Homes of our ancestors," in the days when the principal object in selecting a site seemed to be to find a *low* situation, where wind and weather made little difference to the inmates. The present "Hall," though not possessing beauty of *architecture*, is placed most advantageously as regards situation: the view from it and the surrounding fields, is extremely beautiful, looking down on the church and village; and its background of fine woods gives great effect to the *tout ensemble*.

When speaking of the *natural* beauties of MAREBURY as to situation and surroundings, it would be uncourteous not to remark upon the neatness of the pretty black-and-white cottages, and the good repair and order of the farms in and about the village, which add so much to the general appearance of the place, and reflect great credit on the landlord.

The writer thinks it would be difficult to find in Cheshire so pretty a village as the one in question, and she is well acquainted with the hamlets and similar nooks in the county, not excepting "Eccleston": the latter, although possessing many points of beauty, has not been nearly so lavishly dealt with by Nature as has the village of MAREBURY. Y. Z.

MARCH 15, 1882.

Original Documents.

[1708] THE HURLESTONS OF CHESTER AND
PICTON.

Of the resident families upon the borders of CHESTER, who held and managed to retain the standing of private gentry, through all the ups and downs of the 16th and 17th centuries, the HURLESTONS of Picton were among the most prominent.

Even as early as the 15th century, they are occasionally met with on the Freeman's and Corporate Rolls of the city: for instance, in 1481, Roger Hurleston, and in 1482 Hugh Hurleston, and again in 1492 Roger Hurleston, were Mayors of Chester, and other members of the family tree occur also as Sheriffs of the city.

But it is manifest that a good pedigree of the Cheshire Hurlestons is still a desideratum; for the ROGER even whose funeral certificate forms the basis of this article has been quite ignored by the historians of the family, and yet there is ample evidence that he left descendants.

The Funeral Certificate of this ROGER, who both on his own side and his wife's had good patriotic blood to boast of, will be found recorded in Harl. MS. 2180, and runs shortly as follows:—

"ROGER HURLSTON, of the City of CHESTER, sonne & heyre to ROGER HURLSTON, of Chester, Esquire, dyed in Chester upon the . . . day of September, 1634, and was interred in St. Michell's Church, in Chester aforesayd. he married Elizabeth, seconde daughter & co-heire to James Mainwaring, of Croxton, in the County of Chester, Esquire, & had issue—

ROGER HURLSTON, his sonne & heyre, now of the age of 19 yeares or thereabout, at the tyme of his father's death.

James, 2nd sonne; Henry, 3rd sonne; Mary, Martha, Rebecca."

The Will of ROGER HURLESTON, of CHESTER, Esquire, as I find by reference to Vol. iv. of the Publications of the RECORD SOCIETY, was proved in the Episcopal Registry in 1634, and remains still upon record there.

The HURLESTONS of Picton and Chester came to an end in 1734, on the marriage of JOHN LECHE, of Carden, Esq., with Mary, daughter and heiress of JOHN HURLESTON, of Picton, Esq., the last male heir of that ancient house, and are now represented by the worthy Squire of Carden Park, JOHN HURLESTON LECHE, Esq.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1709] THINGS I REMEMBER, No. 14.

FLOOKERSBROOK BRIDGE AND PITTS.

I am thinking of about a half century ago, less or more. I was a mere child at the time, from three to five years old, but can recollect being often taken on pleasant late-summer afternoons to spend an hour or two revelling in play on the edge of the delicious Flookersbrook Pitts, near the picturesque old brick bridge, then overhanging the stream of the "Flookers'-brook." One charming bit of entertainment was that of fishing with a crooked pin-hook from the old bridge-crown for, as I suppose, jacksharps or minnows, which I don't remember catching, by the way: one thing though that I *did* catch, and mightily enjoyed too, was the luscious jargonelle pear which always awaited my call for it, at the orchard of James Griffith, the then market gardener of Flookersbrook, an early friend of my parents. I remember, too, that Griffith's sister, an elderly woman, unfortunately deaf and dumb, was set down by the older generation of middle-and-lower-class Cestrians as having dealings with the black art. With the memories of fifty years fresh upon me, I well enough recall "dumb Sal," as she was familiarly called, taking servant girls into my mother's back kitchen, and telling each her fortune (of a sort) out of the turned-over leaves of an old tea-pot improvised for the occasion. I believe her prophecies as to the girl's future were usually believed in and appreciated by the girl a great deal more than she ever believed in her church catechism, or any other scraps of education meted out to such people in those days.

My thoughts to-day, however, are less about Dumb Sal and her vaticinations than about the disputed sale of a small house and strip of land near this same old FLOOKERSBROOK BRIDGE—a trial which was quite a *cause celebre* at the time.

It would be some years after the CHESTER and BIRKENHEAD and CHESTER and CREWE RAILWAYS were first opened to CHESTER. The Companies, with a view to a STATION, had set their hearts on the cottage and scrap of land in question, and tried to effect a money arrangement for its purchase with the owner, who was also the tenant. The angry petty lord of the manor refused even to look at terms: and so, protected, I suppose, by a short act for a compulsory purchase, the Companies proceeded to take the fighting shoe-maker in hand. For several weeks persuasive measures were tried without the smallest effect; so notice was served upon him that, *holus bolus*, the wretched mansion would next day inevitably meet its fate. A little before one o'clock that next day I was with a school-boy companion on the spot, taking my position on the new FLOOKERSBROOK BRIDGE wall, close to the railway.

A few minutes' official waiting elapsed, and Mr. B. L. JONES, the railway manager, having again tried and failed to induce the owner to close and give up possession, had nothing for it but to order his contractors to proceed to extremities. This was done before my eyes: in less than half an hour every window and door was broken; every slate, and every trace even of a roof, pulled hastily down by the fifty workmen employed; though I should add, that the not very valuable furniture had been meanwhile removed to an exposed position on the bank opposite. A number of railway luries were quickly on the spot, and the furniture was removed to the Goods Sheds, where they remained for months pending the trial. Ten minutes more sufficed to make the whole thing a wreck, and by 8 o'clock not a vestige of the mansion was anywhere distinguishable—rough-handed justice, it may be said, but still, I suppose, justice was in the end meted out; and, in a short while a fine Station was erected on the site which, with continual additions, still provides for the railway interests of Chester.

The warlike shoemaker in the end lost the trial, and the costs, as might easily have been anticipated, swallowed up a large part of the purchase money.

G. T.

[1710] THE CHESTER ROWS.

CAMDEN, in his *Britannia*, in describing CHESTER, says:—

"The houses are very fair built, and along the chief streets are galleries, or walking places they call Rows, having shops on both sides, through which a man may walk dry from one end unto the other."

AND STURKLEY, in his *Itinerary* published in 1724, says:—

"The Rows or piazzas are singular through the whole town, giving shelter to foot people. I fancy it a remain of the Roman porticoes."

It has been alleged that the Rows were originally used as places of defence, from whence to annoy and repulse the assaults of the enemy, who might gain entrance into the streets beneath by surprising the gates, during those remote days when our city was subject to the sudden incursions of the Welsh.

But against this opinion it may be urged that in no one of their attacks upon the city did the Welsh ever force their way within the gates or walls; so that, these latter being proved by experience to be a sufficient bulwark against these marauders, there existed no necessity for the erection of any further defence.

It, therefore, appears to be the more likely supposition that the Rows were erected with a view to the accommodation of the citizens and traders,—sheltering them and their goods from the summer's heat and the winter's storm, at a period when the streets beneath were yet unpaved, and retail shops, as we know them, unknown.

In the 16th century the Rows appear, from specimens still standing, not to have exceeded six feet in height from floor to ceiling, and ten feet in width. They had clumsy wooden rails towards the streets, and huge oaken pillars supporting transverse beams and brackets; on which rested the houses over head, formed of wood and plaster,—so far overhanging the streets that in some places, it is said, the upper floors of opposite houses nearly met.

FRED. J. FREEMAN.

Queries.

[1711] A CURIOUSLY SHAPED FONT.

During the past twelvemonths, I have been much interested in the restoration of the ancient church of St. Nicholas, STRETTON, Rutland, which had fallen into a state of considerable decay. It is situated on the Great North Road, the Old Ermine Street, eight miles from Stamford, on the way to Grantham, and its oldest portions date from about the year 1090. It has a Nave, Chancel, North Aisle, two Transepts, and South Porch. There is a beautiful Early English arcade, with round arches. On the western side of the central pillar of this arcade is the font, standing in its original position, immediately opposite to the north door—now walled up—which, till about thirty years ago, was the chief entrance to the church, the village being to the north of the church. The font is large and of rude shape, dating probably, to the year 1180. Its shape is peculiar; and, through the medium of "THE SHEAF," I wish to ask if fonts of a similar shape are known in the county of CHESTER? It is oblong in plan, instead of the usual circular or octangular shape. The old oak cover had been so arranged, as to be fixed down with a large bar of iron, secured by other irons fastened into the stonework, and then locked with a padlock—a means adopted, probably, to prevent theft of any "holy water." The architect in charge of the restoration has been James Fowler, Esq., F.R.I.B.A., of Louth, Lincolnshire; and, for the new font-lid, he made a special design for its parallelogram-form, which has been carried out, in iron-work, by Messrs. Skidmore, of Coventry. The bowl of the font is of great size; so that the "total immersion" of an infant, if needed, is provided for. There is one person yet living and in good health—and I may say, able to write a very good, clear letter—who was baptized in this font exactly ninety years ago this March; and that is, Caroline, Duchess Dowager of Cleveland. She was the daughter of Sir William Lowther, who was created first Earl of Lonsdale, and who lived at Stockton Hall, in the parish of Stretton. Her sister and brother—who lived to be the second Earl—were also baptized in this Font.

CUTHBERT BEDD.

Stretton Rectory, March 1, 1882.

[1712] THE CHESTER GLOVE.

I send you the *literatim* copy of a note that accompanies an old Wooden HAND in Mr. Mayer's collection, in the hope that you may be able to throw some light upon the history of the HAND, and give for its early and regular use, as specified in the memorandum, an historical proof of some kind. Mr. EARWAKER tells me you have opportunity to get information about such things in THE SHEAF.

"This Piece of Oak, better known in the city of CHESTER by the name of 'The Glove,' has for many centuries been occasionally hung out as an Indication of the Commencement of Each Fair. In Olden Times the glove was suspended from a pole in the front of the Old Pentice, opposite the Cross. On the removal of the Pentice, in the year 1803 (in order to widen the passage into Northgate, near Watergate Streets), the Glove afterwards was hung out at every Fair, from that period to the year 1836, from the South East corner of St. Peter's Church. The Glove has been many years in the care of one Peter Catharal, the clerk of St. Peter's Church, who received 3s. 9d. per year to recompence him for the trouble of fixing it up at the commencement, and taking it down at the conclusion, of each Fair. In October, 1836 (end of the first year of the Municipal Reform Corporation), Catharal, the clerk, Presented the glove to the Mayor (an old custom), and claimed 3s. 9d.,—a customary fee—for the charge on the glove. The Mayor took the glove and looked at it very minutely, seemingly much astonished at its age. After applying his knife to prove the soundness of this piece of old Cestrian antiquity, the Mayor threw it at Catharal, and Exclaimed, 'I will not allow you 3s. 9d. for any such old foolish customs. You may do what you like with it!' It past from Catharal to a person named Wilkinson, who sold it for two Pints of Ale at the sign of the Boot, in the city of Chester, on 27th Nov., 1836."

CHARLES T. GATTY,

Liverpool.

Curator, Mayer Museum.

[1713] THE DODS OF BROXTON.

PEARCE (or Piers) DOD (Fellow of All Souls', Oxford), was son of JOHN DOD, of the City of London, Draper and Citizen, who was son of PETER DOD, of Tushingham, Cheshire, said in *old pedigree* to be son of Piers Dod, who was son of another Piers Dod, of Broxton.

In the *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, vol. i., p. 224, there is a pedigree of "Dod of Edge," shewing the branch of "Dod of Broxton," ending with Thomas Dod living 1601, who left an heiress who married Edward Tanat.

I want to ascertain the connection of Piers Dod of Broxton with the line of Dod of Broxton shewn.

Can Mr. Thomas Hughes assist, or can he suggest any source of information likely to help me?

Gangrog, Welshpool.

M. C. JONES.

Replies.

[1714] ROBERT LLOYD, GENT.

[Nos. 842, 966, 1004.—Oct. 1, Dec. 31, 1879;
Jan. 28, 1880.]

I am glad to place the fact on record, that the publication of my Reply to the above Query, in THE CHESHIRE SHEAF, has resulted in Captain Verney, R.N., erecting in the nave of Chester Cathedral, a very chaste and appropriate Brass to the memory of MRS. LLOYD (*née* VERNEY). The Brass is, in effect, a facsimile of the inscription as it appeared in 1776, when discovered by the Rev. THOMAS CRANE, during the new flagging of the broad aisle of the Cathedral. This latest addition to the Monumental Brasses of Chester is from the art establishment of Messrs. Hardman of Birmingham.

HENRY EVE.

[1715] THE ABBEY GATE, CHESTER.

[No. 979.—Jan. 7th, 1880.]

That the present Gateway is the same as the one mentioned by "L. L." there can be little doubt; and I am inclined to think that it was *rebuilt* at the time mentioned. Looking at the plan of the Abbey, the present site must have been the original one, as it was before this Gateway that the Chester Plays were performed. Upon these occasions Northgate-street must have been very busy, and the spectators must have looked with veneration at the Gate, which was the entrance to a secluded and religious life, but which afterwards became one of debauchery and revel.

I suppose there is no plan; shewing the Abbey prior to the Dissolution of Religious Houses; but those we have are sufficient for the present question, which deals with an occurrence 60 years after that time.

In the scheme for the Chester Bishoprick, provision was made for "ii porters to kepe the gates and shave the company; xiii*li*. per annum." From this it is quite manifest that even after the Abbey had been converted into the Cathedral, the gates were looked after as in the olden time.

By the plan of the Abbey Buildings, I find, connected with the gate, a Porter's Lodge on the right hand, now occupied by part of the new King's School. This Lodge was entered by a doorway, which is now blocked up, at the bottom of the steps leading to the Bishop's Registrar's Office. On the north side, where Messrs. Walker and Smith's offices now stand, was the St. Thomas' Court, from whence came many deeds relating to the Church and its possessions, some of which have been published in these columns.

In the Charter of Henry VIII. (dated at Walden, Aug. 6, 1541) for the erection of the Cathedral, the following passage relating to the Gateway occurs:—

"Duo etiam cubicula nuper in tenura et usu Roberti Radford, Clerici, inter dictam coquinam novam, et dicti nuper monasterii portas existentia, cum domo quadam nuper appellata 'Le Aumbry.'"

In the year 1554, George Marsh was burnt at Boughton, under the sentence of Bishop Cotes, and it is said that he was, before his death, imprisoned over the Abbey Gateway.

On turning to page 158 of the present volume, it will be seen that, in 1579, "the West-gate of the Abbey in Chester, called 'Le Abbey Gate,' was then used as an office, but by whom I cannot ascertain.

Now comes the point in question. History sometimes repeats itself, but there can be nothing more perplexing to a student than to decide when doctors disagree.

Webb, in the "*Vale Royal*," has—

"1590. The gate near unto the office door of the Abbey Court was begun the 26th of April, and was finished the 19th of May following."

Hanshall gives the year as 1591, and does not mention the completion. Perhaps Mr. Thomas Hughes can, by the aid of his copious extracts, give us the date and further particulars as entered in the Cathedral Books.

If twenty-four days only were occupied by its erection, I am the more convinced that it was not then rebuilt, but very much altered in appearance.

The age of refined taste was fast decaying; no regard for the sculpture wrought by the monks, nor the wish for beauty and grace, was shewn at the close of the 16th century, and to that time the present external appearance of the Gate could, without much doubt, be apportioned. The groining I fancy is original, and perhaps was not touched in this rebuilding, as the stone is not very perishable when not exposed to the weather.

Viewed from Northgate-street, the Gate now presents a very heavy and dull appearance; but the niches, which to-day serve only for lads to lodge stones in, may have then held some appropriate sculpture.

The Elevation to Abbey Court has suffered, I think, even more than the West side, and is crumbling into decay, not very rapidly, but surely. The windows in the walls are out of harmony with the building, but even these help to break up the blank wall. It is remarkable that the structure is so devoid of string moldings; for, in the time it was erected, strings were very much in use, taking the place of carving generally,—but in all probability to the decaying nature of the stone may be attributed the cause of their absence.

Although not what may be strictly termed an architectural feature to the city, I believe that the Abbey Gate would be much missed if pulled down; perhaps as much as was Temple Bar, or as little as would be its successor, the Griffin memorial, in London.

J. H.

[1716] ST. MARY'S CHURCH, CHESTER.

[No. 1,066.—March 10, 1880.]

It is not difficult to give a cause for the Church Brief at DEWSBURY, in the parish accounts of which town there appears to have been "Collected in June, 1665, towards the rebuilding of the Parish Church of ST. MARYS in the city of CHESTER, the summe of fower shillings."

It was not the Church that was just then in the architect's and builder's hands; for the fabric we have in our midst to-day is, in its main features, the one that was standing in 1655, and for a couple of centuries previously. It was the south or *Troutbeck* aisle of ST. MARY'S that was, in the second Charles's days, in course of reconstruction; and the cause was, the disastrous fall of the roof and south wall upon the beautiful *Troutbeck Chapel*, one of the prime architectural features of the old city in the stirring times of the later Henries.

The rebuilding, towards which the Parish of Dewsbury, in loyal response to the King's Brief, sent the magnificent "summe of fower shillings," was carried out in due course; and the aisle so set up anew served its purpose for nearly two hundred years, when it was again levelled and reconstructed in our own day, under the auspices of a late and much-loved Rector, WILLIAM HENRY MASSIE.

A. H. S.

1717] MR. LANE'S CHESTER MIRACLE.

[Nos. 1641, 1649, 1696.—May 25, June 1, 1881; Feb. 15, 1882.]

My friend Mr. J. P. Earwaker informs me that Lawrence Winnington, of the Hermitage in Sandbach parish, gent., in his will dated 20th June, 1572, after declaring that he was not a Catholic, and desiring to be buried "in such order as apperteyneth to a member of Christ Church," desired that "Mr. Goodman, Mr. LANE, or such other learned man as shall take the peanes to make a Sermon at the tyme of buryall," shall have xxvi. viiijd.

But little more remains to be said. It is, however, evident Mr. Prebendary LANE was an active man in his post as a member of the Chapter; and the accounts he kept while serving the offices of Treasurer and Receiver compare favourably with those of some of his brethren in and after his day. He was, in residence, at Chester during the Plague of 1574, and aided the Mayor and Corporation both by precept and practice in grappling with the scourge. I find in the Treasurer's account for that year the following entry:—

"Imprimis, the xxviijth of M'ch, unto Mr.

Maioir of the Cittie, by the com'andement of

Mr. Lane, for the relief of the poore troubled

in the Plague tyme xxs.

And again on Nov. 8, the same year:—

"To the Collectors for the Poore of the
Citie, by the advice of Mr. Lane..... xls."

Mr. JOHN FISHER, who divides with Prebendary LANE the authorship and printing of the Tract on this curious case of *Hysteria*, was a counsellor-at-law, and official in the Bishop's Court at Chester; and I find his name on the Freeman's Roll of the city in the first year of Elizabeth, 1558, where he is described as "John Fisher, gentleman." His son, Peter Fisher, was a native of Chester, and a Founder of The King's School from 1565 to 1569. T. HUGHES.

MARCH 29, 1882.

Original Documents.

[1718] THE MANOR OF EWLOE.

The manor and lands of EWLOE, with the castle and lordship of the same, which had been fiefs of the Crown since the rebellion of Llewellyn, had been granted on lease by the King as early as the year 1418 to JOHN DE HELEGH, with reserved rights to John de Ewloe, farmer of the Castle Mill. This said John de Ewloe, at the time of his death in 1418, was the holder of the manor and surrounding land, besides property of value "in Cuppyngeslone, Whitefrerelone, and Honbrugge by Chester." From the EWLOES it seems to have passed, late in the 15th century to the STANLEYS; who managed to retain their hold of the locality, more or less securely, through the next two centuries.

As we find by Harl. MS. 2041, this manor was in the Crown in the 26th of Henry VIII. who, on the 7th April, 1535, leased it to Peter (or Piers) Stanley, Esq., a gentleman of his bed chamber. His descendant Edward Stanley held it from the Crown by an annual payment of £20 10s.

The Funeral Certificate of EDWARD STANLEY, of Ewloe, Esq., which we here print, is taken from the original record preserved in Harleian MS. 2041, already referred to:—

"EDWARD STANLEY, of Ewloe, in the County of Flint, Esqr., dyed on the _____ daye of January, A'o 1608 [-9] and lyeth Interred in hawrden Church in the said County.

He married MARGARET daughter to S'r JAMES STANLEY, Knight, second sonne to George lorde Strange, by whom he had yssue, who dyed younge.

Henry Stanley.

Robert Stanley married Alice Salusbury daughter to Mr. Thomas Salusbury of flynt, *Esquior*,* by whom he had an only daughter Anne who married John Moston of Coed On.

Peter Stanley, Edward Stanley.

Henry Stanley, Thomas Stanley.

George Stanley married Ellin Byngly daughter to Byngly of Broughton, gent. *

Will'm Stanley, John Stanley.

Richard Stanley.

Katheren married to Richard Gryffith of Kylkyn.*

Anne married to Anto; Aston of p'ke hall in Staffordshire.*

Margrett married to Robt Salusbury [in another hand in different ink] second sonne to S'r John Salusbury knight.

Mary Stanley dyed young.

(a) He is elsewhere called "Doctor" Salusbury. His descendants settled at Ewloe. He was uncle to Sir John S., the subject of the other Certificate already printed in THE SHEAF.

Elizabeth married to Thomas Lee of Middleton, and after to Richard Houghton.

Fraunces married to Arblaster Wentworth of Gosfeld in Essex, gent.

This defunct bare xij severall Coates, the first by the name of Stanley, being descended of a second sonne of Sr Will'm Stanley of hooton knight; the second coat by the name of Audaleigh; the 3rd Bamvyll; the 4th Silvester al's Stourton; the 5th hooton; the 6th houghton; the 7th Lea; the 8th grosuenor; the 9th pulford; the 10th pheasant; the 11th harington; the xijth by the name of Heileigh."

EDITOR.

Notes.

[1719] PRESIDENT BRADSHAW'S HAT.

I recently met with two lines, quoted from Bramston's last century poem, "The Man of Taste," referring to the Cheshire Lord President as sitting in judgment on King Charles I., at Westminster, in the following terms:—

"Where England's monarch all uncovered sat,
And BRADSHAW bullied in a broad-brimmed hat."

This quotation must be received with great caution, for the author was evidently not too particular about his facts. It is quite likely that "BRADSHAW bullied with his broad-brimmed hat"; for we know he was capable of using pretty strong adjectives, and more than enough of bluster, when acting in his judicial capacity. But that KING CHARLES uncovered before the bully is a statement denied by all accredited history. It is perfectly well known that the monarch, when brought before the illegal tribunal, and called upon to plead,—with the dignity becoming his position as sovereign absolutely refused to do so, or even to take off his hat in deference to the miserable court.

CHESHIRE has little to be proud of in its connection with the CONGLETON regicide: let it not go unchallenged, then, that his insolent demand was even for one moment acceded to by the unhappy King. G. T.

[1720] A RUNAWAY STAGE-COACH.

CHESTER was a lively coaching centre in the days when "the Road" was the one great avenue of communication, and when "the Rail" was as yet unused, if not also unknown. There must be many a lively anecdote and curious story still afloat in the memories of our older Cestrians relative to the Stage-Coaches and coachmen, the Royal Mails and their scarlet-coated guards, of 60 or 70 years ago,—stories that would be worth hoarding up in THE SHEAF, if some of the fathers of our old city would take the trouble to recount them.

A few such reminiscences have already been recorded in these pages; and here is another, the actors in which are still well remembered by many of our citizens of to-day. It is copied from REYNARDSON'S "Down the Road, or Reminiscences of a Gentleman Coachman," pp. 160-4. The author heads his story,

"PETER HILTON AND 'THE STRANGE GENTLEMAN.'"

'Hallo, Peter! How about that "strange gentleman?" said a brother coachman as he pulled up alongside the above-named PETER HILTON, who drove the 'Hirondelle' [the 'Iron Devil' it was nicknamed at Chester] from SHREWSBURY to BIRKENHEAD, from which place the passengers crossed by a ferry-boat to Liverpool. 'All along with that strange gentleman's driving, eh, Peter?' 'If that is all you've got to say,' said Peter, 'you'd better mind your own business!' This was a mighty sore subject with Peter, who at the best of times was not famed for his affable manners, if anything put him out. He was not very fond of chaff; and the incident I am about to relate afforded a grand subject for banter on the road, and with many of his brother coachmen, who all knew me pretty well.

The facts were these. Peter, for some reasons best known to himself, for I could never make them out, was not vastly fond of me. I knew him less than any coachman on the road, and certainly had never given him any cause for liking or disliking me. He never much approved of my driving, though he knew I was in the habit of driving any of the coaches out of Shrewsbury, and elsewhere in that part of the country.

It happened one day that Mr. Isaac Taylor, of the Lion Inn, in Shrewsbury, who horsed most of the coaches, was in the yard when the 'Hirondelle' was about to start. He had given me leave to drive any team of his, and seemed surprised not to see me lay hold of the reins and mount the rostrum. 'Aren't you going to drive, sir?' said he; 'you'll find them a fairish team, I think.' 'Well, to tell you the truth,' said I, 'PETER HILTON don't seem to much like my driving.' 'Never mind Peter Hilton,' said Mr. Taylor; 'jump up, sir; I'll make it all right! Hilton! Mr. REYNARDSON is going to work to-day.' 'Very well, sir, if you like it,' looking as sulky as he could look, and he could look it to perfection. Off we started: a horrid day, I well remember,

blowing great guns, so that I could hardly keep the horses in the road, the wind dead in my teeth, and the rain driving up the road, till reins, whip, and everything else were as wet and soddened as if they had been boiled, or were made of tripe.

Having arrived at WREXHAM, where a dog-cart was waiting for me to take me to a friend's house about two miles distant, down I jumped, gave PETER a *douceur*, which I hoped would make him think better of me for the time to come, and said 'Good day, Peter; don't look so cross! I'll come and drive for you again some day ere very long!' and with this I jumped into the dog-cart, and was off before the horses were out of the coach.

Some time afterwards I met my old friend Mr. KENYON, or 'His Honour,' as he was always called. 'Hallo, old friend!' said he, much to my surprise; 'how came you to let PETER HILTON's horses get away from you the other day?' Of course I was all amazement, never having heard of any occurrence that could give rise to the speech. 'I don't know what you mean!' I said. 'Why,' said His Honour, 'did not you drive the "Hirondelle" on such a day from Shrewsbury, and did not they run off with the coach from WREXHAM?' To this I replied 'No! and that I had never heard of anything of the kind having taken place.' 'Well, Peter said you did, and it's all over the country! so, as you did not do it, you will know what to say if any one chaffs you about it.'

It would seem that while they were putting the horses to at the FEATHERS INN, at WREXHAM, my friend Peter and the three or four passengers that were on the coach (for I remember we had only a light load that day), slipped into the inn to 'wet their whistles,' and WREXHAM was famous for its good ale in those days. For some cause the horse-keeper left the horses for a moment, and when he returned, to his surprise he found the coach gone! and, to his greater surprise, friend PETER and his passengers still in the bar! The horses had started off, first in a walk, then in a trot, then got into a gallop, and away they went with the empty coach at any pace you like to call it, till they got to the bottom of MARFORD HILL, about five miles from Wrexham! How they stopped, why they stopped,—whether they were stopped by anyone,—or whether they stopped of their own accord, I never heard; but stop they did, and the coach and horses came to no grief! Will Jones, who was driving the coach from Liverpool to Wrexham, through CHESTER, met them about half-way down MARFORD HILL; and seeing something was wrong, there being no one on the coach, pulled almost off the road, and so avoided being run into. He said they were going a real good pace, and he could not for the life of him make out what could be up, till he got to WREXHAM, and found how matters stood.

PETER HILTON, to get the blame off his own shoulders, and avoid the chaff which he must go through, and thinking that he should never hear any more of it, laid it to my driving, and said, 'Oh!

it was all along with that strange gentleman driving!' He was soon, however, found out, and the chaff he got was without end. He never passed a coach for long enough after that without being reminded of 'the strange gentleman.' 'How about that strange gentleman, Peter? Have you seen him lately?' used constantly to be thrown in his face."

JEHU.

Queries.

[1721] CARLYLE AND CHESHIRE.

The finest of English thinkers—"Sartor Resartus"—has not forgotten our county in his manifold studies; for, writing to Dr. Chalmers on October 11, 1841, in acknowledging a present of his essay on "Pauperism," the great man-painter of our century says:—

"Did you observe the late trial at STOCKPORT, in Cheshire, of a human father and human mother for poisoning three of their children, to gain successively some £3 8s. from a burial society for each of them? A barrister of my acquaintance, who goes that circuit, informs me positively that the official people durst not go further into this business; that the case was by no means a solitary one there; that, on the whole, they thought it good to close up the matter swiftly again from the light of day, and investigate it no deeper!"

What are the facts of these cases, and who is the ocal counsel referred to? It seems a harsh verdict on CHESHIRE, and, did it not come from the man it does, it were hardly worthy of belief.

Pemb. Coll. Camb.

T. CANN HUGHES.

[1722] HERKIN'S WELL FIELD.

Is there such a field in the neighbourhood of Chester,—and if so, will some one inform me of its whereabouts and present ownership? A Well-Field implies also a Well,—what has become of Herkin's Well? Who was HERKIN?

Y. O. M.

[1723] SOUGHTON OBELISK.

Among the five Egyptian monoliths now in England everybody almost is familiar with the so-called "Cleopatra Needle," the chief "lion" of the Thames Embankment: there are two others, much less known, in the British Museum, and a fourth is at Alnwick, in Northumberland.

But there is a fifth *maen-hir* which deserves to be placed on record in THE SHEAF, and that is the smaller obelisk at present preserved in the grounds attached to Soughton Hall, co. Flint; and it is about this stray child of the Nile that I venture now to ask for some

few particulars. What is its present condition? Has it ever been photographed or engraved, and by whom? Has it an inscription?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[1724] KNIT-BEGGER.

What is a Knit-begger? I find it two or three times referred to in the WILMSLOW Parish Registers, to which I have recently had to refer for genealogical purposes. I suspect it is a purely local word, but even if so, it were just as well to have it recorded where it may come up for philological use some future day.

G. T.

[1725] MOLLY HOUGH'S.

On my return from America to my native land after more than a half-century's knocking about in the great Republic, one of my first outings for a day from Liverpool was to CHESTER, intent on calling upon an old friend then residing on the River Cop, and known to us youngsters as Molly Hough. As for her gooseberries and jargonelle pears, and her ginger "pop," I can very safely aver I have never since tasted the like! I could find no trace of her or her pears and pop on my recent visit:—is she still alive, and is her garden still as high in popular favour as it was in those good old days?

A PILGRIM.

Replies.

[1726] THE PLAGUE IN CHESTER IN 1647.

[Vol. I., Nos. 279, 306, 569.—Oct. 2, 16, 1878; March 19, 1879.]

The following is copied from a contemporary (printed) account, probably one of the small quarto newspapers of the time, but it is not possible to say which:—

"There dyed in Chester City of the Plague, from July 7 to July 15, 1647,—

In the Parishes of	Martins.....	15	Johns	5
Oswels	Maryes	25	Michaels ...	23
Peters	Olives	12	and, in the City	
Trinity	Brigets	9	Cabines	29

The totall of the burials this weeke in Chester, 141.

The Plague takes them very strangely, strikes them black of one side, and then they run mad, some drowne themselves, others would kill themselves; they dye within few hours, some run up and down streets in their shirts, to the great horror of those in the City."

Pensarn, Abergelle.

J. P. FARWAKER.

[1727] THE REV. THOMAS ALCOCK.

[No. 897, 921, 941.—Nov. 12, 26, Dec. 10, 1879.]

The following sermons by this clergyman, who was a native of Buncorn, in Cheshire, may be useful if

recorded in the pages of *THE SHEAF*. They have only quite recently come to my hands.

The Nature and Obligation of Oaths. An *Assize Sermon* preached in the Cathedral-Church of St. Peter, Exon, on *Wednesday, August 7, 1754*. Published at the request of the Right Reverend the *Lord Bishop* and *Mr. High Sheriff*. By THOMAS ALCOCK, M.A., of *Brass-Nose College, Oxford*. Oxford: Printed, &c., and sold by Theoph. Rhodes, bookseller in Plymouth, MDCCLV. 8vo. pp. 28.

A *Sermon* on the Late Earthquakes, more particularly that at Lisbon; Part whereof was Preached *December 31, 1755*, and the other Part *February 4, 1756*, in the Parish Church of *St. Andrew, Plymouth*: Wherein the subject is considered both in a Philosophical and Religious Light. By THOMAS ALCOCK, M.A., of *Brass-Nose College, Oxford*. [Quotation from Seneca.] Oxford: Printed, &c., and sold by Theoph. Rhodes, Bookseller in Plymouth, MDCCLVI. 8vo. pp. 42.

It is very noteworthy that in both sermons *Brasenose College* is printed "Brase-Nose" and "Brase-Nose," a form I do not remember to have seen elsewhere.

Pensarn, Abergelle.

J. P. EARWAKER.

[1728] ARMOUR IN CHESHIRE CHURCHES.

[No. 1,548.—March 16, 1881.]

The Museum of Antiquities formed by the late T. Bateman, Esq., of Lomerdale House, near Youlgrave, Derbyshire, contained, when I last visited it (to use the words of the printed catalogue), a "Helmet of the time of Elizabeth or James I., originally from Bowdon Church, Cheshire. The vizor has been removed, and some bars attached in its place, in order to render it more heraldic! Bought at the sale of Mr. James Drew's Collection, Manchester, 1852." Much of the memorial armour, then so popular, was removed from churches at the close of the Civil War, the work of petty plundering continuing until a comparatively recent period. Probably the Bowdon helmet is one of a very small number which can be identified as having been brought from any particular church. An examination of the catalogue of Mr. Drew's sale might perchance bring to light the mention of some other local specimens.

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood, Surrey.

[1729] THE PARRYS OF CWM, CO. FLINT.

[No. 1,603.—April 27, 1882.]

On reference to a notice of this family in a former number of *THE SHEAF* I find that I am responsible for several inaccuracies which further investigation enables me to correct.

1. Although at the time of his death Mr. RICHARD PARRY, the subject of this notice, appears to have been

the only surviving son of his father, the Bishop, he was not his "only son." On the contrary, he was the eldest of a large family of four brothers and six sisters, who all married. Of the brothers, WILLIAM alone left issue. He was Parson of Dolgelly, and married an English lady named "Lucy Tyokle;" by whom he was father of three sons, JOHN, WILLIAM, and RICHARD, who appear to have walked as chief mourners at the funeral of their Uncle Richard in July, 1649. JOHN, the eldest, inherited Pwllhalog, was Sheriff of Flintshire in 1654, married two wives, and had a family by each. The eldest son of his first wife (Catherine, daughter of John Conwy, of Bodrhyddan) was the direct ancestor of the late Mr. RICHARD PARRY, of WARFIELD and LLYWYN, who died in 1836.

2.—GWEN, the wife of Bishop PARRY, was daughter but not "heir," of John ap Rhys Wynn, of Llywyn; who, besides another daughter, Jane, wife of Dr. JOHN DAVIES, of Mallow, who wrote the *Welsh Dictionary*, had a son, Edward Pryse of Llywyn, Sheriff co. Denbigh in 1627.

3.—"WILLIAM PARRY, of Llywyn, Sheriff co. Denbigh 1668," though related to the Pwllhalog family through his mother, was otherwise of a totally different race. He was son of GABRIEL PARRY, D.D., of Llanrhudd, by Mary his wife, daughter and heir of the above-named Edward Pryse. By his wife CATHERINE, daughter and heir of Roger Holland of Hendrefawr near Abergelle, William Parry had a son David, who d.s.p. and a daughter SUSSANNAH, heiress of her brother, and wife of John Roberts, of Hafody-bwch, M.P. for Denbigh Boroughs 1710-15. And by the marriage, in 1714, of their daughter and heiress Catherine Roberts to HUMPHREY PARRY of Pwllhalog, the representation of these several families devolved upon their descendants. K.

APRIL 12, 1882.

Original Documents.

[1730] RICHARD GROSVENOR, OF EATON, ESQUIRE.

THE GROSVENORS OF EATON have for several hundred years been a family of power and of knightly estate in Cheshire. Even if I pass over, for present purposes, some of the earlier descents,—for which at the same time, there is as reliable contemporary proof still extant as for any high family of England,—from the close of the seventeenth century the history of the GROSVENORS has been part and parcel of the history of Cheshire.

Then, again, when the fates made CHRISTIAN BROOKE, daughter of Sir Richard Brooke, of Norton Priory, baronet, the happy wife in 1588 of RICHARD GROSVENOR, of EATON; and when that lady, of her wifely bounty, presented her proud lord with no less than 17 children,—three sons and fourteen daughters!—no fears must have been felt then, as happily still, of the race becoming extinct. Large families have usually been synonymous with poverty: not so, however, with the GROSVENORS; who, from the date of the Funeral Certificate which forms the basis of this article, have grown in wealth, dignity, and influence to an extent probably without parallel in the Queen's dominions.

The Certificate here printed is so full in its details, coming as it were fresh from the hand of the first RANDLE HOLME, the prince of that illustrious family of Chester Heralds, that it needs little or no introduction from me. It reaches me from a valued correspondent, "ALLEN," who copied it from the original document preserved in Harleian MS. No. 2,180, in the British Museum:—

"Coat of Arms:—Azure, a Sheaf or, quartering 12 Coats of Arms.

"RICHARD GROSVENOR, of Eaton, in the county of Chester, Esqre., sonne of Thomas Grosvenor, Esqre., of the same place and county, departed this mortall life at Eaton, the XVIIIth day of September, 1619, and was buried [September 22] at Eccleston Church, in his owne Chapel there, within the county aforesaide. He maryed to his first wife Christian, daughter to Richard Brooke, of Norton, in the county of Chester, Esqre., by whome he had yssue, viz., 3 sonnes and 14 daughters:—

Thomas Grosvenor, their eldest sonne, died yonge.

Sir Richard Grosvenor, Knt., sonne and heire of the defunct, now of the age of 36 yeares or thereabouts, maryed to his first wife Lettise, daughter of Sr. Hugh Cholmondeleigh of Cholmondeleigh, in the county of Chester, Knt., by whom he had issue,

Richard, his sonne and heire apparent, now of the age of XV yeares or thereabouts;

Robert, his seaconde sonne, died yonge;

Christian, his eldest daughter; and

Mary Grosvenor, his second daughter.

To his seacond wife he maryed Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Thos. Wilbraham, of Woodhey, in the county of Chester, Esqre., by ffraunce, his first wife, daughter of Sir Hugh Cholmondeleigh, Knt., and hath yssue by her,

Thomas Grosvenor, now of the age of 3 yeares or thereabouts, and

Grace Grosvenor.

Thomas Grosvenor, 3rd son of the defunct, died yonge.

Anne, eldest daughter to the defunct, maryed John Massey, of Coddington, in the county of Chester, Esqre. They have yssue,

John Massey, eldest sonne and heire; Richard, seaconde sonne, died yonge; Roger, 3rd sonne; Edward, 4th sonne; William, 5th sonne; Richard, 6th sonne; Robert, 7th sonne; Hugh, 8th sonne; George, 9th sonne; Hamond, 10th sonne.

Mary, their eldest daughter, dyed unmarried. Christian, seacond daugh., dyed yonge. Margaret, 5th daughter, and Christian Massey, 6th daughter.

Mary Grosvenor, 2nd daughter of the defunct, unmarried.

Christian, 3rd daughter, maryed Peeter Danyell, of Tabley, in the co. of Chester, Esqr.; they have yssue—

Peeter, their eldest sonne and heire; Richard seacond sonne, dyed yonge; Thomas, 3rd sonne, dyed yonge; Henry, 4th sonne; Robert, 5th sonne, dyed yonge; John, 6th sonne; Margaret, their eldest daughter; Christian, 2nd daughter; Frances, 3rd daughter; and Mary Danyell, 4th daughter.

ffraunce, 4th daughter of the defunct, dyed yonge. Dorothe Grosvenor, 5th daughter, dyed yonge, ffraunce, 6th daughter;

Katherine, 7th daughter, maryed Thos. Glynn, sonne and heire to Sir Wm. Glynn, of Glynllivon, in the county of Carnarvon, Knt.

Dorothy Grosvenor, 8th daughter to the defunct, dyed unmarried; Eleanor, 9th daughter, dyed yonge; Elizabeth, 10th daughter; Jane, 11th daughter, dyed yonge; Eleanor, 12th daughter; Margaret, 13th daughter; Magdalen Grosvenor, 14th daughter to the defunct.

The said defunct maryed to his 2nd wife Jane, daughter of S'r Thos. Vernon, of Halington, in the County of Chester, Knt. Shee was widdow to John Bostock, of Moortinsaye, in the co. of Salop, Esq. Sans issue by either of them.

This Certificate was taken at ETON, in the county of Chester, upon the vith day of March 1619, by Randle Holme, of the Citie of Chester, deputie under the Office of Armes, and testified under the hand of S'r Richard Grosvenor, Kt., son and heire of Richard Grosvenor, deceased."

Anne Grosvenor, eldest daughter of the 17 children of Richard and Christian, as we see by the foregoing Funeral Certificate, became the spouse of John Massey of Coddington, and, following the fertile example of her mother, brought no less than 16 olive branches to grace the tables at CODDINGTON. Their direct lineal representative is the present RICHARD MASSEY, Esq., of Pulford and Coddington, so well known for his contributions to English Hymnology.

T. HUGHES.

[1781]

MOW COP.

In the earlier pages of THE SHEAF we were treated with some illustrations of MOW COP DIALECT. A

MS. Book of Household and other Expenses has fallen into my hands, evidently written by a resident of the neighbourhood of Mow; and, as some of the items give an insight into country life there, about the middle of the seventeenth century, I send you a few extracts by way of instalment:—

"March [16] '65.

	li.	s.	d.
27. Given the' to Hugh Hughes for helping this day to lade for trawtes in the brook above Wyddow Smithes house	0	0	4
31. P'd the' Randle Turn'r (constable) 7 mizes, in discharge of the Royall Tax, for 3 months ending att Lady day last	0	8	4

April '65.

1. Paid the' (by the hands of good wife Eato') to Hardw [are], of Congle [Congleton], for 3 double pike hooks armed with yellow wyre	0	0	6
P'd then to Mr. Jo: Cartr'ts man for 2 threave of barley straw for litter	0	0	4
4. P'd the' for 2 dusse' of Brossey tob: [tobacco] pipes	0	0	4
5. Paid the' to Fr. Gibson for half a peck of malt for to make a mash for my mare	0	0	6
7. P'd the' to old James Clewes for the Iro' frame for the sleeching nett	0	1	0
2. P'd the' to Wm. Stevenson six days pay, appointed by warr't, for trayning 6 days this week, the su' of	0	6	0
13. Given the' to Fr. Gibson for helping to fysh ye Walnutt tree pitt yesterday	0	0	3
15. Given the' to the May singers (by the hands of my sister Jane)	0	0	3
23. Given the' at a colle[ction] at Astbury for a ma' in Wyrall that had bin shipp wreckt	0	0	2

May '65.

2. Given the' to a poor ma (who said he lived in Worrall, neer Sir Wm. Stanleys; he called his name Tho: Minahall	0	0	2
3. Given the' to Wm. Twiford (who hath ye Spaniell to learn to sett)	0	1	0

(To be continued.)

Tushingham Hall.

B. J.L. V.

Here we have reference to the annual custom in Cheshire, villages and towns alike, of the parish and other singers perambulating their respective districts at daybreak on May Day, in order with appropriate music and singing to "usher in the May." For an example of a genuine Cheshire May Day Song, we refer our readers to the first volume of *THE SHEAF*, page 1. Similar ceremonies accompanied the "seeing in" of the New Year.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[1732] CAMPING v. HOUSE LIFE.

I had been talking to a married lady on the advantages of out-door life. She answered, "Look at the children of those who are obliged to have this so-called privilege,—they are always having colds and illnesses, and often die in early life!"

The next week I was visiting in Cheshire, and noticed, under the hedge of a field adjoining the road which runs through what was once "HAUGHTON GREEN," the usual donkey-cart, blanket-tent, and camp-fire, which mark the English Gipsy's home. After dinner we sauntered down by star-light to smoke a pipe at the camp-fire, and were saluted by a very Queen of Gipsies. She had evidently once been a handsome woman; and was still tall, upright as a dart, and of powerful frame, with hair yet black, though short, and turned behind the ears. The eyes, though small and sunken, had still much of the fire of earlier days; and the hands, with gold rings on the first and third fingers, had still a grip which would hold any burglar a prisoner! She wore a print dress, with a red handkerchief round her neck, and had no covering for the head. Round her neck was a chain suspending two lockets, and some beads. A cheerful fire of wood was burning, and close beside was a small tent made of eight withy sticks, with ends stuck into the ground and bent over at a height of five feet, so as to support the blanket covering. A heap of straw sufficed as bed; a four-wheeled donkey-cart covered in, but without a fireplace, was the sleeping room of the woman and her grand-daughter, the son occupying the little tent. We sat down for a talk, and she told us something of her life. I took out pen and paper, and wrote from her own lips as follows:—

"My name is LUCY TAYLOR. I was a BOSWELL before I was married,—I am now a widow. My husband died eight years ago last 14th of June. I don't know how old I am. I was only once married, and was then 16 years old. We 'broke the stick over the fire,' in gipsy fashion, to get married. I have had 16 children, and have about 50 grandchildren. I have buried 4 children. One daughter who died was very handsome, and had the finest head of hair and shoulders you ever saw: the Mayor of FLINT has a lock of her hair. My son Vernon has 13 children; Phoenix has 9; Benjamin has none; Bucheman has six; Solomon has 4; Ernest had eight; Amy has 7; and Mary Ann 2; Richard has no children, and the others are not married.

I have travelled about all my life, and my Father and Mother before me: my Father was 105, and my Mother 106, when they died. Two and a half years was the longest I ever was in a house in my life; I never was out of England, or London way, but always in these Northern parts. Me and that

grandchild, and my son, live together: we make baskets and clothes pegs, and sell them. I was out all last winter round about CHESTER, and you know how cold it was, and yet I never had a fire in the van to sleep by. We go eight or ten miles a day. Father and Mother brought me up this way, and I like it better than a house: I could not do with a house,—the way you are brought up is the way you like. I can not read or write, and don't think I was ever at school: not many Gipsy people have been to school,—you see, they are here to-day, and gone to-morrow! We came from WAVEBTON to-day and shall move on towards NORTHWICH to-morrow, and get back to CHESTER towards Christmas."

Looking at this woman, as a specimen of health and vigour in old age; and listening to the report she gave of her many belongings, I should,—if asked to decide on the question of "Camping v. House Life," be compelled to say "verdict for the plaintiff, with costs!"

Haughton Hall.

RUSTIOUS.

Queries.

[1739] FREEMASONRY IN CHESHIRE.

How far back can this mystic craft be traced in CHESHIRE,—and what is the name of the first Lodge established in the "province?" I presume CHESTER itself would be early in the Masonic field; but as I am not myself, as yet, a brother, I am unable to glean very much of the by-gones of that honourable fraternity. Probably some one acquainted with its history locally will, on my thus appealing to him, tell us as much as he dare of the secrets of the Order, so far as they contribute to the local history of the craft?

A NOVICE.

[1734] STATUE OF A CHESTER BISHOP.

Preserved amongst the sculptured fragments in the charming ruins at the east end of ST. JOHN'S Church, at CHESTER, I see the head and bust of a Bishop wearing his mitre: such other portion, also, of his apparel as remains indicates a good period of ecclesiological art. Is it possible, from historical or other evidence, to say what individual Bishop was intended by the sculptor?

H. S. A.

[1735] CHESTER. OLD TREES.

On several previous occasions I have drawn attention in THE SHEAF to certain venerable Trees that have given life, colour, and even historic interest, to particular localities in the Palatine county. Following up the thread, I would ask if there be any and what Trees in and about the old city itself that have any memories or associations worthy of being treasured up in your columns?

A WOODMAN.

Replies.

"LYCIDAS."

[No. 1651.—June 1, 1881]

In reply to this Query, I always heard my mother, Lady HELENA COOKE, say that MILTON wrote "Lycidas," on the death at sea of his College friend KING (he was of Christ's College, Cambridge), who was the son of one of her ancestors. I do not remember the lad's Christian name, though I think it was Lawrence; but perhaps Mr. T. CANN HUGHES can find it on the records of Christ's College.

MILTON was born in 1608, and died in 1674: his college companion would be either a son of Sir John King, kt., of Bockingham, co. Roscommon, Ireland; or of his son Sir Robert King, Muster-Master-General of Ireland, who married Frances, daughter of the first Lord Folliott. They had, with other children, a son John, who was elevated to the peerage by Charles II., 4 Sept., 1660, as Baron Kingston.

I see Sir Robert King's other sons were Henry and Robert: this Robert was created a baronet in 1682. I do not know what became of Henry.

Maes-Alyn.

P. B. DAVIES-COOKE.

[1737] LIXE HESKETH'S LIBRARY, ALL OUTSIDE.

[No. 1660.—January 1, 1882.]

This saying is probably of only local application, and can be satisfactorily explained. When the late Mr. LLOYD H. BAMFORD HESKETH was erecting GWAYCH Castle in the mountain suburbs of Abergela, a vast sum was expended on the mere skeleton of the Castle; and many people prophesied it would never be finished or made habitable, but perseverance and ample means at length proved the contrary. Almost a more serious business, as the Castle approached completion, was the furnishing, though that too was at length overcome. One large room with which I had at the time somewhat to do, was the Library; and it was found, when the glass cases and shelving were put up, that the owner had not a tithe of the number of books to make even a decent show! Recourse was now had to stratagem. A Chester bookseller, Mr. George Pritchard, was called in; and by his advice an almost infinite number of mock book-backs (the backs only) were prepared, each back lettered to represent some unique or very curious volume of local history or topography. These were in due course secured to thin flat deal boards, and were thus arranged on the library shelves close to the glass: as a matter of course all the glass cases were kept permanently locked, and all access to their supposed contents rigidly denied, very much to the annoyance of the innocent bookworms who chanced to be present, and who fancied they saw priceless literary

treasures on the other side the glass ! It may be that these sham book-backs no longer exist at GWRYCH Castle, for my acquaintance with them dated back to at least 40 years ago. I have, at all events, no doubt that it was this piece of literary deception on the owner's part that gave rise to the saying then prevalent as to anything pretentious or unreal, "It's like Heakey's library, all outside !"

H. S. A.

[1738] KING'S MARSH, FARNDON.

[No 1670. JAN. 18, 1883.]

MR. HUGHES has incidentally mentioned this Marsh, and it may be well to continue its history down to the present time.

I am enabled by the *Reports of the Deputy Keeper of the Rolls*, to trace it down to 1599, when I fall short of material ; but, I have no doubt, other contributors can fill up the space between that and the present time, with perhaps one or two slight gaps.

In 1555, HUGH LE TAYLOUR was appointed keeper and bailiff of the Marsh. I presume his duties would be to stop the neighbouring manor-lords from taking in or building upon any portion ; and also to see that the unfortunates living there during their year-and-day's grace did not fix any permanent building upon the Freehold.

On October 1, 1568, EDWARD Prince of Wales granted it, (with other lands of the yearly value of £7 6s. 8d.) to RICHARD DE STAFFORD. The land and lordship of HOPE and Hopedale were included in this grant ; and in December of the same year the Prince takes exception to the coalmines, valued at 53s. 4d. yearly, unless the said Richard should take the same in abatement of the £7 6s. 8d. of the issues of OVERMARSH.

How this was arranged, I cannot learn ; but on August 22, 1580, RICHARD II. granted to Sir JOHN DE HOLLAND, Kt. ("for life in aid of the maintenance of his state"), the same property and rents (including the *Marsh*), to have and to hold in like manner as RICHARD DE STAFFORD, deceased, had held the same.

On March, 1586, the Marsh was taken into the King's hands, who leased it to Ughtred de Huxlegh for three years at £13 annually ; Sir John de Holland being granted restitution of all his lands.

JOHN LECHE was granted by the King, on September 12, 1586, the moor of OVERMARSH, in lieu of 7½d. daily allotted to him, by former letters, as his wages, he being the King's surgeon ; "the said moor not exceeding in value the yearly amount of such wages, and lying between the towns of Farndon, Churton, Aldford, Codyngton, Barton, Stretton, Caldecote, and Crue."

It is not clear to me whether the "moor of Overmarsh" is the same as Overmarsh, as it seems to be held by several persons at the same time. Upon calculating the King's surgeon's wages, I find it is exceeded by the value of the moor by £1 12s.

JOHN LECHE held it until July 1st, 1591 ; when he was granted, during his life, the manor of *Mostyn*, co. Flint, in lieu of the moor, with forty shillings yearly for his robes.

JOE' DE CREWE had the Marsh on lease for 3 years, from March, 12, 1592, at a yearly rent of £14 ; and upon its expiration in 1595, it was leased to John son of Patrick de Barton, John de Pulford of Barton, and Richard de Barwe (Barrow), for six years at the same rent. This lease is renewed May, 8, 1599, to John de Pulford, before named, and John Ketull of Stretton.

The moor was granted to RICHARD COLFOX by RICHARD II., and when HENRY IV. had ascended the throne his son Henry, Prince of Wales, confirmed the grant. It remained in the possession of Colfox until July, 1404, when the Prince of Wales issued his writ to the escheator of the county to seize it.

(To be continued)

J. H.

[1739] CARLYLE AND CHESHIRE.

[No. 1721.—March 29]

The following paragraph in "Past and Present" carries the poisoning case at STOCKPORT a stage further, showing that the mother and father were *found guilty* at Stockport [? CHESTER] Assizes in the *Autumn of 1841*. Surely some of your legal correspondents could fish out of the records of the Assizes of the autumn of 1841 the facts :—

"At Stockport Assizes,—and this, too, has no reference to the present state of trade, being of date prior to that,—a mother and a father are arraigned and found guilty of poisoning three of their children, to defraud a 'burial society' of some £3 8s. due on the death of each child : they are arraigned, found guilty ; and the official authorities, it is whispered, hint that perhaps the case is not solitary, that perhaps you had better not probe farther into that department of things ! That is in the autumn of 1841 ; the crime is of the previous year or season."

J. T.

APRIL 26, 1882.

Original Documents.

[1740] THE MOSTYNS OF MARSMYNNON.

Our excellent correspondent "ALIEN" has favoured us with the annexed Funeral Certificate of a scion of the Flintshire house of MOSTYN, which will, we have little doubt, have interest for many of our Welsh neighbours. The original is preserved like so many others of similar character and value, in Harleian MS. 2180, in the British Museum :—

"JOHN MOSTYN, of MASE MONON, in the County of ffynt, Esquire, seconde son of S'r ROGER MOSTYN, of Mostyn, in the saide County of ffynt, Kn't. He died the 26th day of Decemb'r, 1675, & in the 83'd year of his age, & was buried at Potferras, in a Tombe which he himselfe caused to be made. He was never married, but left his p'sonall estate amongst his Servants, & made his nephew, S'r Roger Mostyn, Kn't and Bar't, his heire and executor fee jli.

This Certificate was taken by RANDLE HOLME, of the City of Chester, gent., deputy to the Office of Armes, under the hand of S'r Roger Mostyn, Kn't & Bar't, nephew & heire to the defunct."

In illustration of the foregoing, we cannot do better than endorse and adopt the remarks of our anonymous friend "K." :—

JOHN MOSTYN, the subject of this Certificate, was second son of Sir Roger Mostyn, Kt., by Mary, his wife, eldest daughter of Sir John Wynn of Gwydir Bart. He was M.P. for Anglesey the 21st of James I. [1623], and afterwards for the county of Flint in 1640. The mansion of MAESMYNAN is well placed near the high road from Denbigh to Mold, and its situation is historical as being the site of a mansion in which, according to Welsh tradition, LLEWELLYN ap Griffith the last native Prince of Wales once resided.

JOHN MOSTYN purchased it from a family named "Massey," one of whom, ROBERT MASSEY of MAESMYNAN, represented the county of Flint in Parliament the 1st Mary [1553], in which year he also served the office of Sheriff of Denbighshire. I have been unable to discover whether these Masseys were related to the Coddington or the Puddington families of that name.

In 1550 a Sir John Massey Kt., who was most probably of Puddington and the same who died 15 July 6th of Edward VI. [1552], served the office of Sheriff of Flintshire. And a reference to the Coddington pedigree in "Ormerod" shows that a Robert Massey living temp. Henry VIII. was also connected with Flintshire by the marriage of one of his daughters to Thomas Salisbury of Leadbrook in that county.

MAESMYNAN passed out of the possession of the Mostyn family some years ago, and is now the property of Mr. Pickstone, who resides there. "Potferras," the place of John Mostyn's sepulture, is obviously a misspelling of BODFARI, the parish in which Maesmynan is situated.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[1741] ST. JOHN'S, CHESTER.

It is desirable to keep on record every scrap relating to this grand old Church, and I therefore send you these following :—

A license was granted to the Dean and Chapter of St. JOHN'S, 1 July, 1349, "to acquire of JOHN DE CRAVEN four messuages in Foregate-street, and 10s. annual rent, issuing out of the lands and tenements, which were of *John de Terryn* in HONBRUGGE, which messuages and rent were held of the Bishop of Lichfield *in capite*. This John de Craven had been appointed Canon of St. JOHN'S in 1344. On the same date (July 1, 1349), the Dean and Chapter of St. JOHN'S were "pardoned" for acquiring from *John de Stoke*, citizen of Chester, three messuages in Foregate-street, held *in capite* of the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, "*ad fabricam ipsius ecclesie*." *Hugh de Trigynham* is recorded as Dean of St. JOHN'S, 1354-5. On the 24th February, 1358-9, "warrant for letters of permutation to John de Deeping, Prebendary of St. JOHN'S," were issued; but in twelve months afterwards (to the day) "William de Mere is collated to this prebend, vacant by the resignation of John de Depyng, by EDWARD, Prince of Wales, it being "in the Prince's gift by reason of the temporalities of the see of Lichfield and Coventry being in his hands."

In 1361, *Adam de Wygan* is mentioned as "sacristan" of St. JOHN'S. In 1378, the advowson of the Church of St. JOHN was "assigned in dower to JOAN, Princess of Wales." In 1385 JOHN DE WODEHOUSE is mentioned as Dean of St. JOHN'S. Is this the same gentleman who in 1394 was Chamberlain? Under date of June 9th in that year, there is a record thus :—"Memorandum. JOHN DE WODEHOUSE having been removed from the office of Chamberlain, 6 May, 1394, before he departed for London on certain arduous affairs of the King, inclosed the seal of the office in a bag, and delivered it to *John Brecsy*, his clerk, to keep until the coming of Robert de Parys, whom the King had appointed Chamberlain, or until it should be otherwise determined: which said John kept the seal until the County Leet at Chester of June, 1394, when it was decided in the presence of WILLIAM BAGOT, vice justice of Chester, HUGH HOLES, justice de banco and serjeant at law, WILLIAM CROSSEBY, serjeant-at-law, ROBT. DE TOUNLEY, serjeant-at-law, ROBERT DE LEGH, Kt., Sheriff of Chester, and THOMAS MAISTERSON, escheator, to open the bag and use the seal."

In 1396-7 JOHN BAGOT is mentioned as Dean of St. JOHN'S. On the 16th of May, 1398, RICHARD CONINGESTON is named as presented to the office of Prebendary of the same church; and in the same year, Randal de Scolehall is named as "Chaplain of the chantry of St. Mary," in the same church; which office he also filled in 1407. There appears to have been a fraternity of St. ANN'S in connection with this Church, for on the 6th November, 1410, HENRY, Prince of Wales, grants licenses to :—RANDAL DE BUDWORTH, Chaplain, and John Warwick, to give messuages and lands in Chester, Kelsale, Huxley, and

Tervyn to the said fraternity; to William Gentill chaplain, Henry Keede, chaplain, and John del Halle to grant messuages in Chester; and a like license to Roger Gray, John Brereton, John Preston, Gilbert Billeyetter, and John Freman, to give lands in Hole Newton, near Chester.

A warrant was issued on the 20th of December, 1412, to the forester of DELAMERE "for the delivery to the DEAN and CHAPTER OF ST. JOHN'S of eight oaks to repair their Church;" and on the 27th of the same month, a like warrant was issued to John Brownwynd, keeper of SHOTWICK PARK, for four oaks.

MENTMORE.

[1742] THE PLAGUE AT CONGLETON.

The Rev. John Pickford, M.A., one of the leading correspondents of *Notes and Queries*, recently contributed to that periodical the following excerpt from a small MS. in his possession referring to the PLAGUE at CONGLETON in the year 1641. I venture to use the scissors once more in order that the scrap may find a local home in the columns of THE SHEAF:—

"According to an old tradition the Plague was brought from London in a box of clothes sent down to a person at NORTH ROSE Hall, whose relation had died of the Plague in London. On opening the box the family caught the infection and died. From them it spread all over the country, and was presently in CONGLETON, where it made dreadful ravage. Most of the infected died, and lay dead in their houses, no person coming near them for a long time. When their neighbours were satisfied they were dead, some who had recovered from the disorder, or were more bold than the rest, went and dragged out the dead bodies, and buried them as so many dogs.

They tell the tale of an old man named Capper, who desired that when he was dead they would pull him out of the house, and not let his body lie and rot there; and that he would tie the end of a rope, which they threw him for that purpose, round his leg to drag him out by. When he was dead, they pulled at the rope, but could not draw him; and on looking in they found that he had, either by chance or design, tied it to a piece of wood in the wall.

So fearful were they of the infection, that when there was any dealing betwixt people, the party paying money dropped it into water before the other would touch it. And when anything was handed from one to another, it was holden to the fire for some time, and then taken up in a pair of tongs at arm's length, or else laid down on the ground, and then taken up by the person who was to receive it.

But, notwithstanding all these precautions, the greatest part of the inhabitants died, and the neighbouring people fled from the town for fear. So much was the intercourse with the country out off, and so little travelling in the streets, that grass grew all over them to that degree that the pavement could hardly be seen."

G. T.

Queries.

[1743] POCKET OR ROTTEN BOROUGHS.

In almost every county of England and Ireland there existed, and still may, one or more Rotten Boroughs; and these local hotbeds of corruption appear virtually to have determined the political complexion of the country from generation to generation. How is it that there were no such family nurseries for sucking statesmen in CHESHIRE? CHESTER City was never, I think, save to a very slight extent, a *pocket*, though it certainly did, not so long ago, shew itself to be a *rotten* borough. SIMON PURE.

[1744] EDWARD ELWALL, THE ENTHUSIAST AND HERETIC.

The writer would be glad to have some particulars of this singular individual, who was called a Jewish Arian Sabbatarian, and lived for some time at CHESTER. He was originally an Episcopalian; but at the age of 22, when he married, he was a Presbyterian. Husband and wife were both subsequently baptised in the River Severn by a Baptist minister of CHESTER. He was afterwards an ironmonger at Wolverhampton; and while there he underwent, in 1726, a trial for heresy and blasphemy. Dr. JOHNSON, who knew him, says, that he held that "everything in the Old Testament that was not typical was to be of perpetual observance; and so he wore a ribband in the plaits of his coat, and he also wore a beard." In 1729, Dr. JOHN BYROM, of Manchester, was passing through Wolverhampton, and called at ELWALL'S, but found him away at Bristol Fair. He saw, however, his son SION, who "did not seem very forward to vindicate his father's notions;" and likewise his daughter LYDIA, "an intolerable talking girl." The latter showed Byrom "a cap or turban" that her father had got made from *Josephus*, and intended to wear instead of a hat. One of ELWALL'S books is in the Byrom Library; and an account of his trial, in a tract in the Free Library, Manchester.

In an old shorthand commonplace-book of Dr. BYROM'S, which has lately turned up, there is an account of another visit which the Doctor made to ELWALL when at CHESTER one Sunday in October, 1730:—

"We dined at Chester, and went to Friend Elwall, who was keeping his Sabbath, but came down to Mr. Leycester, Houghton, Lancaster, and me; and Mr. Lancaster having his Hat off, he said to him, 'Friend Lancaster, less of thy Hat and more of thy Heart!' that he would be with us at 6 or 7 o'clock, but that now he had a better Master to serve."

BYROM and his friends afterwards got him to the "Crown Inn," in Watergate-street, "and so had full talk with him about all things;" and he promised to

translate *Philo-Judeus* for Mr. Leycester. On the Monday Byrom purchased some ironmongery articles from ELWALL, adding:

"We have seen Alderman Bennett's cellars, 8 yards long vaults. He remembered me, he said, 30 years ago at Chester, meaning, I fancy, my brother, because, he said, he was thinner. He was very civil; he drank wine with me, and talked about the Trinity. Thus we came away Monday to Frodsham, and so to Warrington."

In the subsequent year Byrom heard a report of Elwall's death; and he wrote to his friend Leycester:—"As fame alone cannot give death 'nor a turban confer Immortality, let thy testimony clear up this matter.' I cannot ascertain the date of ELWALL's death.

J. E. BAILEY.

Stretford, Manchester.

Replies.

[1745] GWAENYSGOR CHURCH.

[No. 1325, 1365.—Sept. 29, Oct. 27, 1880.]

It seems a pity that no architectural description of this Church has appeared in answer to "E. M. T.," as Mr. CANN HUGHES does not make special mention of the building itself.

As a secondary mode of obtaining the information I venture to send the following, culled from our border contemporary, "*Bye-gones*," for September 14, 1881.

It is written by "W. A. L.," a correspondent who has visited and reported upon several churches in the county of Denbigh. After describing MRLIDEN Church, he continues:—

"A rough scramble over the high limestone mountain, Coed-yn-Esgob (on which there is a round tumulus), brought me to GWAENYSGOR, a retired agricultural village on the edge of a valley, bounded by Coed-yr-Esgob on north-west, and GOR on the south-east. This latter has a large and lofty tumulus on its summit, which in early ages probably formed the base of a mountain fortress. The Church is of one pace (or aisle), small, and without distinction of nave and chancel. The walls, externally upright, and internally curved outwards. The reason and meaning of this peculiar construction are explained in Mr. J. H. Parker of Oxford's paper in the *Antiquary*, Vol. 3, pp. 152-3, with other similar ones in English churches. The curious triangular-headed south door, and also the blocked-up northern one, indicate the edifice to be of early Saxon, or rather British, period (?). At the west is a good open bell turret with one bell, but no window. On the south is a modern porch and square-headed window of three trefoiled lights, but no dripstone. On the south of chancel is a similar window of two lights. The east window is exceedingly good and

beautiful; a Henry VII. depressed perpendicular window of three lights trefoiled, with six upper divisions also trefoiled. On the north side of chancel is a small square loop-holed window, and also a square one, with dripstone, of two lights, the heads being depressed with cusping. The north door is pointed, but now blocked up,—the keystones of the arch of alternately long and short narrow stones. The triangular head of the south door is ornamented with rude depressions of dots, loops, crosses, etc. Internally, over the south porch, is a sepulchral floriated cross, with a sword, built into the wall. The roof is oaved, and of open timber work."

"SLABS IN FLOOR.

THOMAS MORGAN, of Gronant, 7 June, 1771, aged 36.

THOMAS KIRK, of Gwaniscoor, August, 1743, aged 47. SLABS IN THE CHURCHYARD.

ROBERT OWEN, son of WILLIAM OWEN, Rector of Gwaynysoor, 12 February, 1672, and his relict.

. OWEN, Rector, 1646.

CATHERINE, wife of ROBERT of Gw 1641. Pillar dialstone, 1663, RE. PE.

No interment on north side.

Population, 220. The Parish Register is a thin 8vo. volume, begins 1538, and is the oldest existing Register in the Diocese."

From "W. A. L.'s" description the church seems to be of much interest, but we must be careful in accepting, without proper examination, any mention of Saxon or British style. There has been an attempt in *The Antiquary* to compile a list of the remaining Saxon examples; but, owing to the few now in existence, a very small list is made. If, however, GWAENYSGOR Church really has such early work as Saxon or British (the latter style is strange to me, under that name), it is to be hoped that no pains will be spared to keep it intact without any alteration.

The sculptured floriated cross should be examined by some qualified authority and more fully described in your columns.

The date of the Register, according to "E. M. T.," is 1588, but "W. A. L." says 1538. I presume either of these may have been a misprint, but which is correct? If the latter date, it is certainly interesting, as the earlier portion of the Register would be complete, which is not the case generally.

Chester.

J. H.

[1746] A TRADUCEB OF WREXHAM.

[No. 1633.—Feb. 1, 1882.]

The following, from one of the editions of the *Gossipping Guide to Wales*, will be a reply to Mr. THOMAS's query:—

"Wrexham, 'deemed the largest town in North Wales,' and usually found 'a lively one, with spacious streets and substantial, well-built houses,'—nay, even by a poet denominated

Trim Wicksam towne, a pearle of Denbighshire, found little favour in the eyes of the late Lord Chancellor Campbell; as will be noticed, incidentally, in the following extract from the *Life of Lord Erskine*, in the record of the celebrated Trial of the DEAN OF ST. ASAPH towards the end of the last century:—
 'The famous Sir William Jones, the most accomplished man of his age, had written a very harmless little tract, illustrating the general principles of government and parliamentary reform, entitled 'A Dialogue between a Gentleman and a Farmer.' His brother-in-law, Dr. SHIPLEY, approving of it, recommended it to the Society of Reformers in Wales, and caused it to be reprinted. Thereupon, the Honourable Mr. Fitzmaurice, brother to the first Marquis of Lansdowne, preferred an indictment against the Dean at the Great Sessions for Denbighshire, for a seditious libel; and in the autumn of 1783, it stood for trial at WREXHAM, before Lord Justice KENTON, then Chief Justice of Chester, and his brother judge, Mr. Justice Barrington. Erskine attended, and thousands flocked to the dirty Welsh village in the hope of hearing him.' " NEMO.

[1747] - KNIT-BEGGER.

[No. 1724.—March 29, 1882.]

"Knit" is an Anglo Saxon word, equivalent to being bound together, joined as man and wife, agreed, united, &c. Weber has *knet*, and *knutte* for the same meaning. H. S. A.

On most philological points of difficulty I generally find the pages of *Shakespeare* a safe resource. Thus we find in *King John*, "This royal hand and mine are newly knit;" and again, in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, "These couple shall eternally be knit." While even THE SHEAF's own motto may be aptly quoted to illustrate one form of the word:—

"O, let me teach you how to knit again
 This scatter'd corn into one mutual sheaf!"

G. T.

In the 16th and 17th centuries, instead of the more modern wedding breakfast, it was the custom to hand round a "knitting cup" to all those who had assisted at the ceremony; just as the grace—or loving—cup was passed from hand to hand at college and monastery tables, of which proof of amity and good faith all those present were expected to partake. T. HUGHES.

In the extracts from WILMSLOW Parish Register, contained in "*East Cheshire*," vol. i., p. 99, the term "*couple-begger*" as well as "*Knit-begger*" occurs between 1700 and 1704. About twenty-five years before the earlier date, Zachary Cawdrey, Rector of Barthomley, described them as parsons without cures, "*who, being thrown off by those who once entertained them as their Curates, have at present no subsistence but that Clandestine Marriages or other worse arts do furnish out to them.*" ("*A Discourse on Patronage*," p. 42. London, 1675).

Willaston, Nantwich.

JAS. HALL.

MAY 10, 1882.

Original Documents.

[1748] BENEFACTORS' PORTRAITS IN CHESTER TOWN HALL.

In HEMINGWAY'S *Chester*, vol. ii., pp. 187-90, the author, in describing the Old EXCHANGE, the precursor of our present handsome TOWN HALL, gives copies of the inscriptions under the Portraits of those Citizens who had left money or estates for the benefit of poor or decayed Freemen of Chester, and were therefore held to be worthy of being perpetuated, by the painter's art, on the panels adorning the Pentice Court. There the series remained until the destruction by fire of the Old Exchange; when the panels were rescued by main force from the burning room, and preserved in safety until they ultimately found a welcome home in the Council Chamber of the new Town Hall, where it is to be hoped they will long remain.

One of these probably local artistic efforts is described by HEMINGWAY as the portrait of *Richard Bird*, and appears to have been copied from the words painted, within late years, on the panel itself. But as it varies somewhat from what we must take to be the original Record, being preserved in Harleian MS. No. 2151, fo. 151, in the British Museum, we prefer to tell the story at first hand to the readers of THE SHEAF. The Document in question is one of several bearing upon this and similar local Benefactions, and is headed as follows:—

PENTICE IN CHESTER.

"Arms tricked in the corner,—*Argent*, a cross pat-
once between four martlets *Gules*; on a canton
Azure, a crescent *Or*."

RICHARD BIRD, of the City of Seville, in the Kingdom of Spaine, Merchant, deceased, aged 50 yeares or thereabouts, son of Richard Bird, of this City of Chester, Alderm. & Justice of Peace, who, after he had lived in Seville aforesaid 23 yeares or thereabout, died there in the mounth of Jun[e], 1681, who did, notwithstanding his great distance of place, and long absence from his Native countrey, (amongst other considerable Legacies) bequeath three thousand peeces of eight Spanish money, amounting to six hundred & fifty pounds sterling: To be disposed of in this City of Chester (the place of his Nativitie) to charitable Vses; which, accordingly, is done & p'formed with the consent, and approbation of his Brother, Mr. William Bird, Merchant, and Captaine Daniel Causton, Executors or performers of his concernes in England, & is to continue for ever for the releife of six poore aged Cittizens.

The first 6 were nominated by his s'd father, Alderm. Bird, & after the decease of any of them an other person qualified to be put in his Rome by Billets or casting of lotts: who being thus chosen, are to be

appareled with a newe Gowne Lyned & furred enery third yeare, with a Badge of his Armes upon the left shoullder, & 4 pounds in money yearly pay'd them, according to the Rule & directions set down in the last Will & Testament of Mr. John Vernon, deceased, for his Almsmen in this city."

This quotation from Harl. MS. 2151, it will be seen on comparison, gives particulars left out from the painted panel at the Town Hall. The Parish Registers of Holy Trinity, Chester, or rather the Transcripts of them preserved in the Bishop's Registry (which now alone remain from 1626, the original parchment volumes being irreparably lost prior to 1654) supply us with the following particulars relating to RICHARD BIRD, the testator, his parents, and brethren:—

"William Birde, the sonne of mr. Richard Birde, baptized the 9th of october, 1627.

Thomas Birde, sonne of mr. Richard Birde, merchant, was baptized the 16th of october, 1628.

Sara Bird, daughter of mr. Richard Bird, baptized 4th october, 1629.

Alice Bird, daughter of mr. Richard Bird, baptiz'd the 26th Decem', 1630.

Richard Bird, sonne of mr. Richard Bird, baptized the second of febr', 1631."

These entries fully corroborate the Harleian Record, as well as the panel now remaining at the Town Hall; and a reference to the Registers of other parish churches in Chester, notably St. John's, would largely extend the local notices of the Bird family, as would also the Freeman's Roll and the records of the Tanners' and Mercers' Companies at Chester.

The pretty township of BROXTON, or a good part of it, was long held by the BIRDS; but whether this was their earlier home, or whether the successful tanners at Chester made it theirs by purchase, and thus lifted themselves into the position of county gentry, is a question I am not just now in a position to decide. It is certain, however, that Alderman Thomas Bird served the Mayoralty of Chester in 1631; that he died May 13th, 1644, during the heat of the Civil War and of the Siege of Chester, and was buried at St. John's, where an inscription exists to his memory. His will was proved at the Chester office in the latter year.

To my good friend and fellow-worker, Mr. J. PAUL RYLANDS, F.S.A., the readers of THE SHEAF are beholden for the foregoing little waif from the British Museum stores.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1749] THE SNUFF-MILLS, CHESTER.

I noticed the other day in one of my occasional rambles round the City Walls, that the picturesqueness of the opposite river-side, near the Causeway, was

rapidly passing away; and that the old manufactories, the SNUFF-MILLS, the PAPER-MILLS, &c. (the mere buildings I mean), seemed actually at the time in process of demolition. Quite well within my memory (and I am not yet sixty years old), all this neighbourhood was already regarded as artist's ground; and indeed Cuitt, Sumner, Bailey, Pickering, Tasker, and others of equal note have each in their day plied the pencil and the burin on that very appropriate locale. But not only the old mills themselves, but also many of the pretty trees that lined the river bank, have perished from before my eyes; and now the Royal SALMON CAGE on the margin of the Weir is almost the only thing left to remind us of piscatorial and manufacturing by-gones, which once brought population and money to "rare old Chester." A well-conducted and I heartily trust prosperous Tobacco Works and a Skinnery still occupy portion of the site to which Art has, I fear, almost finally bidden farewell.

AN OLD CITIZEN.

[1750] CHESHIRE RAILWAY REMINISCENCES.

I am about to set down, with a view to their being garnered in THE SHEAF, a few reminiscences of the birth of the great Railway system, so far as it appertains to this end of Cheshire. I trust my perhaps somewhat disjointed facts may prove of use to some future historian of the then new, but now almost venerable, iron road intersecting the proud county in so many directions.

The success of the LIVERPOOL and MANCHESTER Railway, coupled perhaps with some pique felt by GEORGE STEPHENSON against the Directors of the GRAND JUNCTION Line, just opened between Liverpool and Birmingham, led him to advise some BIRKENHEAD and CHESTER gentlemen to construct lines between the former place and CREWE. Two companies were formed, and subscriptions were obtained sufficient to construct that between BIRKENHEAD and CHESTER; but the formation of the other part had to be stopped, when half finished, for want of funds; and eventually the GRAND JUNCTION Company bought it up, and completed the works. Differences arose on the Board of that Company, as to the working of their new possession, some members being willing that the two new lines should be worked in concert; and others, jealous of BIRKENHEAD, objecting to such an arrangement. The latter interest prevailed, and for years the lines laid in, across Brook-street, were not used!

There were then two stations, both very humble in construction and size, and both partly formed out of existing buildings.

The mode of booking passengers at that time would much astonish travellers of to-day if they could meet with it anywhere now. All the seats in the first-class carriages were numbered. The passengers had their names written on a large paper ticket, and on a counter-

foil in a book, with the number of the seat which they must occupy, also written in, and the guard carried a way bill to correspond.

Railway clerks were not educated to their work, and an amusing anecdote is related of one at the CHESTER terminus of the BIRKENHEAD line. A man brought a cow and a calf to go by train: lists of rates and fares were examined; the charge for a cow was found, but not for a calf, and the clerk was non-plussed! At last the owner exclaimed, "I have it here,—'Children in arms, free!'" As this was the only solution that at the moment presented itself, the cow was allowed to take her child.

Another tale wastold of aboutthesametime. Theporter at HOORON station, a complete "chow-bacon," used to call out the name in a remarkable manner,—"*Hout-in Staa-shn!*" and the wags travelling by the train got him to repeat his call for their own amusement and that of any friends with them. It was some time before he found out that he was being made fun of, but when he did discover it he resented it strongly. One day a lady—report says a titled one—called him to the carriage window and said, "My man, what's the name of this station?" whereupon, spreading the fingers of both hands, and applying the thumb of one of them to his nose, he called out derisively, "*Haw! haw! haw!*" and moved off without satisfying the querist!

When the CREWE line was opened on Oct. 1, 1840, the whole traffic was carried on by two trains each way daily, and so it continued for months; and the engines were so limited in their powers, that a frosty morning, or two or three inches of snow, would make a train late, and sometimes a wagon laden with iron was propelled in front by the engine to crack the ice before the driving wheels would "bite."

After some time the manager of the CREWE line with difficulty induced the manager of the GRAND JUNCTION line, under which it was worked, to let him begin some goods traffic by running one wagon daily; as, in the judgment of the latter official, "it was not likely the traffic would warrant it!"

At last, there being six distinct lines of railway converging at CHESTER, the necessity for a large joint Station became obvious; and one was designed by Mr. ROBERT STEPHENSON, when a row of very pretty cottages, a flourishing nursery garden, many flower gardens, and the "Crawford estate" lately adverted to in your columns, were entirely absorbed. A new and much larger Bridge was built, and the small one, which had done duty for some years as the communication between FLOOKERSBROOK and the city, was blown up, and the present Station was opened. Large goods sheds were also built, and some sixteen miles of sidings were laid down.

Perhaps the Station and the lines in immediate connection with it have been as free all these years, or more free, from accident than the average of such:

but most of THE SHEAF readers will have heard of what has been and only too appropriately called the famous DEE BRIDGE ACCIDENT.

The Great Western Company were using the portion of the Holyhead line between CHESTER and SALTNEY, when on May 24, 1847, a girder of the bridge broke under their train which left CHESTER for SHREWSBURY about six o'clock p.m. The engine and tender got over the breach, but several of the carriages fell into the river or on its bank—a depth of 50 feet. Twenty-two passengers were either killed or more or less hurt, and compensation was asked for in sums from £2,000 downwards. But as few accidents have not their amusing side, so it was here. One of the passengers, who was in a carriage which fell on to the bank, was asked what claim he wished to put in? To this he replied, "he wasn't much hurt, but he thought the Company ought to give him a new hat, as his own was utterly crushed up!"

Garston.

R. L. J.

[1751] THE OLD EXCHANGE AT CHESTER.

This old building, which was destroyed by fire some years ago, stood on the west side of Northgate-street, opposite the late Episcopal Palace.

It was a square brick building, commenced in 1695, and finished in 1698, at an expense of £1,000, towards which ROGER WHITLEY, then Mayor, contributed largely. It had stone facings, and was supported upon stone pillars; on the ground floor was a spacious thoroughfare from north to south, and other openings eastward.

In a niche on the south front was a statue of QUEEN ANNE, in her coronation robes. On the right of this statue was a tablet bearing the arms of the EARLDOM of CHESTER on a circular shield in the centre; and above these the coats of the Principality of Wales and Duchy of Cornwall, having each their respective coronets over them: beneath were two dragons *seant regardant* as supporters.

The blazon of this tablet, which was much admired, is believed to have been furnished by the last Randle Holme, Deputy to Norroy King-at-Arms, who died in 1707. On the left of the statue was another tablet, containing the Royal Arms of England, as borne for Queen Anne. The statue originally held a sceptre in the right hand and an orb in the left, but these were destroyed by election mobs.

The ground floor of the Exchange originally consisted of four rows of pillars; but in 1756, apprehensions being entertained of the stability of these pillars, and their power to sustain the floors above, a range of shops on the west side, a shop at the south-east, and a room at the north-east angle were erected with a view to strengthen the building.

The walls of the various rooms were hung with portraits (which are now in the Town Hall), among

which were Recorders COMBERBACH, LEYCESTER, Sir WILLIAM WILLIAMS, Sir HENRY BUNBURY; also THOMAS CHOLMONDELEY, Esq., Mayor in 1761; GEORGE III., in his coronation robes (presented by Earl Grosvenor in 1808); Robert, Earl Grosvenor, in his parliamentary robes; RICHARD, Earl GROSVENOR, and Thomas GROSVENOR, Esq., M.P. for the city, in their robes as Mayors of Chester; RICHARD, 2nd Marquis of WESTMINSTER; also the following more recent chief magistrates of the city:—WILLIAM CROSS, THOMAS DIXON, and Major E. F. FRENCH.

FRED. J. FREEMAN.

Queries.

[1752] THE KING'S CASTLE.

Somewhere within CHESHIRE or its immediate borders old authors of standing have placed an important fortress, the very name even of which seems now to have vanished from all maps to which I have any access.

If my slight information be correct, the name this place once went by was "*The King's Castle*," and it was certainly somewhere to the south of the Ribble, if not even of the Mersey. Perhaps some one better acquainted with Shropshire or North Wales than I am will give me some clue to this royal fort. I am satisfied it is not synonymous with BEESTON or HOLT Castle, though it may be a Welsh one upon the Carnarvonshire side.

J. WILKINS, B.A.

[1753] LECHE FAMILY.

In the Church of Saffron Walden, on the east side of England, there is a monument which seems not unlikely from the name attached to it to be connected with Cheshire. From a notice of the Church recently printed by Mr. Reynolds Rowe, F.S.A., I quote the following; and probably some of your genealogical readers may find it a pleasant and not over difficult nut to crack:—

"The north aisle of the chancel contains an altar tomb to John Leche, a vicar, who died A.D. 1521. He built the north porch: his tomb was removed from its original position in the north chantry in 1791."

There were, I believe, two distinct families of LECH in Cheshire from early times; but to which of the two, if indeed either of them, the above-named east-country Vicar belonged, I am unable to say; and that must be my apology for drawing attention to the monument in these columns.

CANTAB.

Replies.

[1754] THE LAST OF THE MINSHULLS.

[No. 1453.—Jan. 5, 1881.]

An old lady friend of mine, who saw the enquiry of "H. S. A.", as to the origin of the story of the Highwayman, has sent me the following; and though it does not belong to the *last* of the Minshulls, nor was the Minshull *shot*, yet it is most likely the incident which gave rise to the tradition. She says:—

"The story most probably appertained to my Grandfather (Will'm Minshull of Aston Clinton, co. Bucks), but not as told. He was at the time Receiver General of Taxes for the county of Bucks—it was a good place in those days, and he received, I think, £1,000 a year for it. He used to go round in his Carriage to receive at the different Towns, with Pistols under the Carriage seats. Plenty of Highway-men in those days.

On one of these journeys his Carriage was stopped, and a man presented a Pistol at my Grandfather, demanding his money. My Grandfather stooped down to get at his Pistols, and whilst doing so, the man rode off! Some time after, one of these "Gentlemen of the Road" was apprehended, tried, and condemned to death: my Grandfather being anxious to know whether it was the man who stopped his Carriage, visited him in prison, and identified him! In the course of conversation, he said to my Grandfather, 'Should you ever be stopped again, don't stoop down for your pistols. I could have shot you through your white head in a moment if I would!' Why he spared him I know not; he was one of the celebrated Highwaymen of the day—I forget his name—and he might have had a rich booty that day, had he acted on his advantage!"

Tushingham Hall.

B. LL. V.

[1755] KING'S MARSH, FAERDON.

[Nos. 1670, 1738.—Jan. 18, April 12, 1882.]

The next mention I find of the Marsh is on December 14, 1418, when JOHN DE HOLLAND, Earl of Huntingdon, sets forth that his father, John, the late Earl, died seized, in his demesne as of fee-tail, of the town of *Northwich*, together with the annual rent of £6 7s. 8d. issuing from the Marsh; that on the death of the said John, the above property descended to Richard de Holland, his son and heir, who died an infant, and then to John de Holland, Earl of Huntingdon, who was twenty-one years of age, on the 29th March, 4th Henry V.

His mother, Elizabeth, Countess of Huntingdon, died on Wednesday next after the feast of St. Martin in Hieme (winter) "last past," seized for life in this Marsh.

This John, Earl of Huntingdon, has a license Nov. 18, 1430, to grant 7 librates of the annual rent, with

other property, to John Stafford, Bishop of Bath, and others, in exchange for property in other places.

In 1434, the moor and Lordship is leased to **URIAN BARNSTON** and Robert de Bostock, for 24 years at £10 yearly. Another lease for ten years, May 16th, 1461, at £10 6s. 8d., and again to Randal Crewe and Jankyn Hankyn for ten years at "£10 6s. 8d. of old rent and 20s. yearly of increase."

I cannot trace any mention of it again until 1507, when it appears to have been held by **THOMAS, 1st EARL OF DERBY**.

Thomas, 2nd Earl, died seized of it on Friday in *Septimana Pentecoste*, 13th Hen. VIII., and Edward Stanley, his son and heir, was then aged 13.

Sep. 20, 1599. Grant to **HUGH BEXSTON**, by the Queen, of the reversion of the pasture called "Overmershe," reciting a grant of the same 17 Sept., 2 Ric. III., to Thomas Stanley, Kt., Lord Stanley, and George Stanley, Kt., Lord le Strange, his son, and the heirs male of the body of the said Thomas. Also a grant, 4 March, 4 Hen. VII., to George Stanley, Kt., Lord le Strange, of, amongst other things, all the lands, tenements, and reversions which were of Henry, Duke of Exeter, in Overmershe; also a grant, 27 March, 22 Hen. VII., to Thomas, Earl of Derby, and the heirs male of his body, of the pasture called "Overmershe;" and, failing such heirs, with reversion to George Stanley, Kt., Lord le Strange (40 and 41 Eliz., m. 3.)

I have given the last extract in full, as it contains in a few words how the Earls of Derby were possessed of it. It remains for some one to take up the thread from this point, as I am short of material. I have failed to learn when the Marsh was formed into a Sanctuary, or last used as such.

Since writing the above, I feel doubtful whether the "Marsh" and "moor" are one or separate holdings,—perhaps Mr. Editor can inform me? J. H.

MAY 24, 1882.

Original Documents.

[1756] **WILLIAM FITTON OF CARDEN.**

The **FITTONS** of **CARDEN**, deducing from Hugh son of John Fitton of Bollin, were inheritors of **OVER CARDEN** through the marriage of Isabella, daughter and co-heiress of **WILLIAM DE CAWARDEN**, who held it in the 13th century and down to its partition in the reign of **HENRY IV**. The **LECHES** about the same time, by marrying another co-heiress of the **CARDENS**, obtained **LOWER CARDEN**; and eventually through the failure of the **Fittons** and by sundry purchases became lords of both estates, as they continue to this day.

THOMAS FITTON, the husband of Isabella [Cawarden] carried down that line, according to the Visitation of 1613, to **FRANCIS FITTON** of Carden, then only 19 years old; and who as we shall see by the following extract by Mr. J. P. RYLANDS from the Harleian MSS. was the recognised head of the **FITTON** family of Carden; but whether he was the **FRANCIS**, brother of Sir Edward Fitton, Lord President of Connaught and Treasurer of Ireland, is not clear to me from the evidence at my disposal.

"Mr. Will'm Fitton, of Carden, funerall, who dyed in Chester, & carried on a co[a]ch to Tilston, and there buried, July, 1636.

Robt. powell	Rich. hill
hen. cockson	Rich. powell
Anthony Hough	hugh powell
Rich. bushell	Rafe Crosse
Mr. leech	Mr. Williams

penon by Mr. Wm. brereton

Mr. fitton helme & crest

Mr. Edw. fitton cote [of Arms]

Mr. glindall p'cher, Mr. holme herald,

the corpses on a co[a]ch

Mr. Francis Fitton alone

Edward fitton & Tho. fitton

bartho. probyn hugh clayton

Jo. Edwards Rich. Edwards

the maior [of Chester] and his

brethren brought the body to the

barrs, & parted back

the gent' that went alonge."

It would have been an interesting spectacle, that warm day in July, 1636, to have stood on the city side of the old **BARS** Gate, as the Funeral Procession of Mr. **WILLIAM FITTON** wended its way slowly along Foregate-street, *en route* to the old church of **TILSTON**, to which **CARDEN** owed tribute. It was not in a stuffy closed-up hearse, but on an elevated carriage open to the clear air and light of day; & preceded moreover by the Mayor of Chester and his brethren, who from their respect for the deceased walked in front of the party to the **BARS**. Here the procession order was reversed: the Corporation divided in twain inside the Gate, forming a double line north and south; and through the ranks passed out the funeral cortege, the servants and friends in front, bearing waving pennons, helm, crest, and armerial coat. Immediately in their wake came "Mr. Glindall p'cher [the Rev. **JOHN GLENDALL**, Rector of St. Peter's]", Mr. [**RANDLE**] **HOLME**, herald, directing the whole cavalcade:—Then the "corpes on a co[a]ch"; the great Mr. Francis Fitton following as chief mourner. In the entire rear came others of the Fitton family, and as Randle Holme puts it, the rest of "the gent' that went alonge."

The above, I doubt not, presents a very fair idea of the more fashionable or "genteel" public funeral of the 17th century,—not very dissimilar in some of its features to those of the present day.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1757] FUGITIVE CHESHIRE DEEDS.

In previous issues of *THE SHEAF* we have recorded instances of original deeds and papers relating to Cheshire, which have found their way into Old Book Catalogues: thus promising to be lost for ever to the county: probably ere this they have passed across the Atlantic, to gladden the heart and foster the pride of some American, craving to connect himself with an old Cheshire family of the same name as his own.

We will to-day extend the list by adding a few documents culled from a similar source to those which have already appeared in these columns:—

"Charter from RICHARD KEFFEN to WILLIAM SAWEDYN and CECILIE, his wife: relates to land, &c., in ST. MARY WYCHERHOUSE, in co. Chester, with pretty seal pendant, quite perfect, and dated at WYCHEMALBANC, ye vij. yere K H. iiij., 1404."

"Charter from WILLIAM SAWKED and CECILIA his wife, to JOHN ATKSON and others, relating to the same property, and dated at WYCHEMALBAN (Nantwich) at the Feast of St. Hilary, 1420."

"Deed between EDMUND SUTTON and RICHARD SUTTON and others, relating to land in NORTH-WYCHE, &c., with signature and seal pendant of Edmund Sutton, dated 1546."

"The Original Rent-Roll of the Manor of BARN-SRAW, co. Chester, written on one narrow skin, 28 inches long by 8 inches wide, date 1621."

"Deed between GEORGE RAVENSCROFT, of MANCOTT co. Flint, and ROGER RAVENSCROFT, of the city of Chester, dated 1630."

"Charter from JOANE KYNER, of BLAEDEN, to RANULPH MANWAYREING, of KERMYNCHAM, dated 27th year of King Henry VIII., 1535."

EDITOR.

[1758] THE REV. THOS. CRANE.

I have been much interested with the recollections of this gentleman that have lately appeared in *THE SHEAF*, and doubt not that the following anecdote will amuse some of your readers. I had it from an aged relation, who used to live near the reverend gentleman, an old bachelor, and his spinster sister. The two occupied apartments in a short row over a shop in Lower Bridge-street, nearly opposite the White Bear Hotel:—One day a neighbour stepped in to call on Miss C. and found the table laid with courses for three. On being asked who was to be their visitor she hesitated to tell; but being pressed for information regarding an unusual circumstance she said, in a whisper, it was for "The Devil, if he should pay them a visit." What reason they had for expecting so extraordinary a visitor I cannot tell, and I believe she gave no clue to the mystery. Possibly she wished to avert trouble, or, more likely, rude and unwomanly curiosity, from the domestic hearth.

The reverend gentleman was very tall and the lady very short, and they usually walked hand in hand, and thus often attracted the derisive notice of the citizens in their rambles. Miss Crane was eccentric and, perhaps too, rather weak in intellect, and so was the subject of many amusing stories that formed the topic of conversation among the Chester gossips of sixty years ago.

Newton.

T. D.-C.

[1759] DOCTOR JOHNSON AT CHESTER.

The following description of Cheshire and North Wales, from the pen of the famed DR. JOHNSON, will be new to most local readers. It is not included in any collected edition of his works, but was printed independently in 1816, under the editorship of R. Dappa, LL.B. It was entitled "A Diary of a Journey into North Wales in the year 1774;" and that portion of it most interesting to us begins at p. 32, when the DOCTOR, with Mr. and Mrs. THRALE, is quitting Derbyshire on his road towards Chester. He thus proceeds:—

"July 20. At night we came to MACCLESFIELD, a very large town in Cheshire, little known. It has a silk mill: it has a handsome church, which, however, is but a chapel, for the town belongs to some parish of another name [Prestbury], as Stourbridge lately did to Old Swinford. Macclesfield has a town-hall, and is a corporate town.

We came to CONGLETON, where there is likewise a silk mill. Then to MIDDLEWICH, a mean old town, without any manufacture, but, I think, a Corporation.

Thence we proceeded to NAMPTWICH, an old town: from the inn, I saw scarcely any but black timber houses. I tasted the brine water, which contains much more salt than the sea water. By slow evaporation, they make large crystals of salt; by quick boiling, small granulations. It seemed to have no other preparation.

22. At evening we came to COMBERMERE, so called from a wide lake. We went up the Mere. I pulled a bulrush of about ten feet [*Great Cat's-tail* or *Reed-mace*]. I saw no convenient boats upon the Mere.

23. We visited Lord Kilmorey's house at *Shavington*. It is large and convenient, with many rooms, none of which are magnificently spacious. The furniture was not splendid. The bed-curtains were not guarded [*P covered*]. Lord Kilmorey shewed the place with too much exultation. He has no park, and little water.

24. We went to a chapel, built by Sir Lynch Cotton for his tenants. It is consecrated and therefore, I suppose, endowed. It is neat and plain. The communion plate is handsome. It [Combermere] has iron pales and gates of great elegance, brought from Llewenny, for Robert [Cotton] has laid all open. * * *

26. We left COMBERMERE, where we have been treated with great civility. The house is spacious, but not magnificent; built at different times, with

different materials; part is of timber, part of stone or brick, plastered and painted to look like timber. It is the best house that I ever saw of that kind. The Mere or lake is large, with a small island, on which there is a summer-house, shaded with great trees; some were hollow, and have seats in their trunks.

In the afternoon we came to WEST-CHESTER; (my father went to the fair, when I had the small-pox.) We walked round the Walls, which are complete, and contain one mile three quarters, and one hundred and one yards; within them are many gardens: they are very high, and two may walk very commodiously side by side. On the inside is a rail. There are towers from space to space, not very frequent, and, I think, not all complete.

27. We staid at Chester, and saw the Cathedral, which is not of the first rank. The Castle, (in one of the rooms the Assizes are held); and the refectory of the old Abbey, of which part is a Grammar School. The master seemed glad to see me. The cloister is very solemn; over it are chambers in which the singing men live.

In one part of the street was a subterranean arch, very strongly built [? one of the crypts]; in another, what they called, I believe rightly, a Roman Hypocaust. The Hypocaust is of a triangular figure, supported by thirty-two pillars, two feet ten inches and a half high, and about eighteen inches distant from each other. Upon each is a tile, eighteen inches square, as if designed for a capital; and over them a perforated tile, two feet square. Such are continued over all the pillars. Above these are two layers; one of coarse mortar, mixed with small red gravel, about three inches thick; and the other of finer materials, between four and five inches thick; these seem to have been the floor of the room above. The pillars stand on a mortar-floor, spread over the rock.

On the south side, between the middle pillars, is the vent for the smoke, about six inches square, which is at present open to the height of sixteen inches. There is also an ante-chamber, exactly of the same extent with the Hypocaust, with an opening in the middle into it. This is sunk nearly two feet below the level of the former, and is of the same rectangular figure; so that both together are an exact square. This was the room allotted for the slaves who attended to heat the place; the other was the receptacle of the fuel designed to heat the room above, the *concamerata sudatis*, or sweating chamber; where people were seated either in niches, or on benches, placed one above the other, during the time of the operation. Such was the object of the Hypocaust; for there were others of different forms, for the purpose of heating the water destined for the use of the bathers.

CHESTER has many curiosities."

Here the great lexicographer brings his remarks on CHESTER to an end. What he has to say about our neighbours in NORTH WALES must stand over to a future issue.

EDITOR.

[1760] MRS. GASKELL AND CHESHIRE.

Glancing over the pages of a clever little book from the pen of Henry Morley, entitled "English Literature in the Reign of Victoria," which Baron Tauchnitz has just issued as the two thousandth volume of his inimitable series, I find a remark which I noted as not likely to be generally known to the readers of the CHESHIRE SHEAF.

He says, in his short notice of ELIZABETH CLEG-HORN GASKELL, the talented authoress of "Mary Barton," and the careful biographer of "Charlotte Bronte," that

"She was the daughter of the Rev. William Stevenson, and spent much of her girlhood with an aunt at KNUTSFORD, in Cheshire, of which place memories abound in her "Cranford." . . . "Cranford," says he, is a short tale, or series of connected sketches, representing, with a delicate and playful humour, society at its narrowest among maiden ladies and their friends who practice elegant economies, and seem only to vegetate in a small country town. But with the tenderness of a true wisdom, the whole impression given is but another reading of the lesson that 'the situation that has not its duty, its ideal, was never yet occupied by man.' 'Here, in the poor, miserable, hampered actual' of Cranford, Miss Matty, with her limited item of life and its economies, shaped her ideal. Mrs. Gaskell, under all her playful humour, makes us feel that souls may be heroic and poetic with the narrowest surroundings."

This little sketch of one who, if she be not Cheshire born, was, at any rate, a quondam resident, and who has made KNUTSFORD live before us in her sprightly novel, will have an interest for many county readers as coming from the pen of Professor Morley, one of the best authorities on English literature the nineteenth century has known.

T. CANN HUGHES.

Pemb. Coll., Cambridge.

Queries.

[1761] THE MÆDIEVAL SEE OF CHESTER.

I know from my ordinary course of reading that there were BISHOPS OF CHESTER before the change made in Church matters at the Reformation; but to the best of my belief I have never seen a list of the Bishops who ruled that more extensive diocese,—Chester, Coventry, and Lichfield in 1531-40, prior to the great ecclesiastical earthquake which rended the kingdom to its centre. Will some one who has looked into this subject kindly inform me who was the Bishop who presided over the three linked dioceses in 1537?

J. WILKINS, B.A.

[1762] NUN'S GRAVE, DELAMERE.

In Bartholomew's small *Map of the Environs of Chester*, recently published, I see a locality marked bearing the above suggestive name. Was there ever a Nunnery thereabouts, and, if so, what was its name? It was apparently close to the old monastery of VALLE ROYAL; but then, I am reminded, that nuns were not often supposed to choose such spots for their graves. Perhaps the description is a misnomer, and in that case it would be well to put the saddle on the right horse. What are the facts?

VIATOR.

[1763] REGIMENTAL BEARS AT CHESTER.

One of my water-colour sketches of Chester, made in the autumn of 1849, is a view from the City Walls, showing the Barracks to the left, the river spanned by the Old Bridge, to the right, and the tower of the old Church in the centre distance. In the foreground, in front of some small buildings at the foot of the Castle wall, is a large kind of dog-kennel, to which are chained two black bears. These were regimental pets. Can any of your readers tell me to what regiment they belonged? also, what led to their adoption? and, is a bear, at the present day, made the pet of any regiment? The date that I have given—1849—will be a guide to the answer to the first of these three questions.

Stratton.

CUTHBERT BEDE.

[1764] A MILE A MINUTE.

My grandfather used to tell me that he once saw a race-horse run a mile in a minute, and I fancy he said the feat was performed on the CHESTER Road-day,—or, at all events, that Chester was in some way mixed up with it; but as I can see no trace of it in our local annals, I should like to ascertain on what basis, other than my ancestors's bare word, the story rests?

M. E. LEE.

Replies.

[1765] RELIGIOUS TROUBLES IN CHESHIRE.

[No. 1698.—March 1, 1882.]

As above, Mr. HUGHES published two very interesting letters referring to a certain RICHARD MASSYE of Aldford, who seems to have made himself a reasonable object of suspicion to Sir Francis Walsingham, by a recent visit to Rome. With all due deference to Mr. HUGHES I beg to differ a generation, as to his identity; and think it more probable from the dates that this Richard Massye was the grandson of Robert Massye, and the son of the Richard he judges him to be, and of his wife Marjery, daughter of Mr. Rowleson, or

Rollinson, of Rollins. In which case, Richard Massye had other very powerful influence to shelter him, besides that of Sir Christopher Hatton, for he was brother-in-law to the Lord Chancellor EGERTON. I find from an old MS. pedigree that Thomas Ravenscroft of Bretton, Esq., married Katherine, 3rd daughter to Richard Grosvenor, of Eaton, Esq., by whom he had, 1. GEORGE RAVENSCROFT, of Bretton, living 1580, married to Dorothy, daughter and heiress of John Davis, of Hawarden; 2. RALPH, married to Katherine (or Jane?) daughter of Robert Massie, of Coddington, Esq., and widow of Thomas Salisbury, of Flintshire. 3. ELIZABETH, married to Sir Thomas Egerton, Lord Chancellor. 4. MAUDE, married to John Hope, Esq. 5. ALICE married to Richard Massye, of Aldford. So that Richard Massye had two friends, viz., his brother-in-law, Sir Thomas Egerton, and his countryman, Sir Christopher Hatton, quite powerful enough to shelter him, even if their "LL's the Erle of Derby and the L. B'p of Chester" were unable to "fynde such token of Reformati'on in him" as to let him go free.

CHOUGH.

[1766]

ST. ALBAN.

[No. 1701.—March 1.]

The only association of ST. ALBAN with CHESHIRE, that I am at this moment aware of, is at TATTENHALL, the former parish church of which, and now its well-designed and soundly-built successor, was each in its day dedicated to ST. ALBAN. I almost fancy, but must not venture to state it as a fact, that TATTENHALL is the only parish church in CHESHIRE that is dedicated to that saint. ORMEROD refers to some oak wainscot, and some good stained glass that once adorned the old church; and some of this I should be inclined to believe has helped in the adornment of the parish church of to-day.

The only other, and that only an incidental, association of ST. ALBAN with Cheshire, lies in the architectural resemblance between the so-called Shrine of ST. ALBAN's at his once ancient Abbey, now recently made into a Cathedral, and that of a similar structure in our CHESTER Cathedral of ST. WERBURGH. Both alike suffered desecration and partial destruction at the hands of the zealots in King Henry's days: and while that at CHESTER was patched and plastered, painted and gilt, in the middle of the last century, and made a gorgeous throne for our Georgian Bishops; ST. ALBAN's, after an almost worse ill-treatment, dismemberment, and neglect, has been rooted out from its obscurity and enjoys once more an honoured position in the Cathedral Church that bears his name.

Surely what is termed the sister Shrine of ST. WERBURGH's, after having suffered an even severer treatment at the hands of the restorer of yesterday, has something more respectful in prospect than to lie like a shattered old trunk to perish, if it will, unheeded and

unaided where all around it is sculptured beauty and architectural grace !

There are said to be not more than twelve churches, all told, in England, ancient or modern, dedicated to the great proto-martyr, St. ALBAN. G. T.

[1767] THE DODS OF BROXTON.

[No. 1713. — March 15, 1882.]

In the Coddington MS. Volume of Pedigrees, in the collection of Richard Massie, Esq., of Pulford, the present representative of his race, I find a pedigree of the DODS of BROXTON, in which a Piers Dod, living 1585-1600, is described as eldest son of John Dod, also of Broxton; and to have married a daughter of Mainwaring of Wyck Malbank, by whom he left several sons and daughters. L. L.

JUNE 7, 1882.

Original Documents.

[1768] THE RAVENSCROFTS OF FLINTSHIRE.

We present our readers this week with another contribution from the Harleian stores, which we hope may prove useful to Mr. HENRY TAYLOR, in his illustrated *History of Flint*, now, we hear, in rapid preparation. It occurs in Harl. MS. No. 8019 :—

"Arms : Quarterley of six ; 1st and 6th, Argent, a chevron Sable between three ravens' heads erased proper [Ravenscroft]. 2nd, Azure, *semée de lys* and a lion rampant gardant Argent [Holland]. 3rd, Argent, three bulls' heads erased Sable [Skevington]. 4th, Sable, 3 garbs Or within a bordure of the last [Brickhull, of Bretton]. 5th, Argent on a bend vert, three spades of the field ; in sinister chief a mullet Sable [Swettenham]. In the middle of the escutcheon a crescent gules. [* This was the mark of cadency denoting the second son.]

Mr. RAUFE RAVENSCROFT, of Bolles, in the Countie of flynt, gent., second sonne of THOMAS RAVENSCROFT, of Bretton, Esquire, Deceased on the second day of November, 1604, And lyeth enttered in flynt Church.

He married to his fyrste Wyfe Elis.* Massy, Daughter to Richard* Massy, of Coddington, in the Countie of Chester, gent., By whom he had no yssue.

To his second wife he married Katheryn* Moston, Daughter to Pieres* Moston, of Delacre, Esquier, By whom also he had no yssue."

Mr. JOHN PAUL RYLANDS, to whose kindness and industry we owe this and many other valued contributions, observes in a short foot-note :—

*These four Christian names have been added in the original. In Harl. MS. 2041 the wife's

name is given as Katheren Massy, but her father's Christian name is blank. His second wife's name is given as Anne Moston, daughter of Peires.

Upon the above genealogical document, probably emanating from the first Randle Holme, our valued correspondent "K." makes the following apposite remarks :—

"In the Ravenscroft pedigree, as drawn by Mr. John Salisbury, of Erbistock, the first wife is named "*Catherine*, daughter to *Robert Massie*, of Coddington, and relict of *Thomas Salisbury*, of Ledbrook, co. Flint," but in the Massie pedigree in Ormerod her name is given as "*Jane*."

Again, in the Ravenscroft pedigree the second wife is entered as "*Anne*." She married first *Harry ap Jevan ap Lewis*; secondly, *Edward Bellot*, Esq.; and thirdly, *Raufe Ravenscroft*.

In the Mostyn pedigree she is called "*Amy*," but it was more likely to have been *Anne*. *Raufe Ravenscroft's* mother was *Catherine*, daughter to *Richard Grosvenor*, of *Eaton*, Esq., who died 27th July, 3rd of Henry VIII."

The foregoing "notes" would seem to show that our old genealogists were not always so particular as they ought to have been about these and other ladies' Christian names. They would have been more careful probably, could they have foreseen the trouble they in that way entailed upon their successors.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[1769] TERESIA CONSTANTIA PHILLIPS.

This frail and beautiful lady, in 1748, published a curious work in three volumes entitled "*An Apology for the conduct of Mrs. Teresia Constantia Phillips*;" and it is stated upon the title page that, "Such extraordinary care has been taken to intimidate the Booksellers in order to stifle this work, that Mrs. Phillips is obliged to publish it herself, and only at her own House in Craig's Court, Charing Cross; and to prevent Imposition, each Book will be signed by her own Hand."

The writer has a local interest, for she was born at CHESTER, in the year 1708-9; being the second daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Phillips, who was a younger son of the family of his name long settled at Picton Castle, Pembrokeshire. On the mother's side she descended from the Goodriches of Yorkshire, and was thus entitled to claim gentle birth, and a place also in the annals of the fashionable world of her day.

When quite a child her mother died; and she then fell to the care of a step-mother, whose cruel usage

threw her upon the world, and led to the abandonment on her part of all the moral restraints, which might have saved her from ruin. At the early age of thirteen she was seduced by the younger son of a nobleman; and who, to save himself from the consequences of his own misconduct, married her to a hired ruffian, who was already married to another woman! Thenceforth the history of her life is a painful chapter of intrigue, of sin, and of sorrow; and the book mentioned above is made up of scandal, and may be designated a record of the depravity of human nature in the higher walks of society.

But, although the lady authoress had fallen into the lowest depths of degradation, there are many evidences of the nobleness of the womanly character of the writer to be met with in these volumes; and I gather from another quarter, that notwithstanding her sinful life she was admired, and even respected by some of the very best people of her day.

I may state too, that I have seen a manuscript account of some incidents in her career, which have not been mentioned in the "Apology;" and one of these relates to a Cheshire *hero* (?) whose infamous history is sufficiently indicated in the following scrap:—

"This gentleman had fallen violently in love with Mrs. Phillips, and gave her his protection, supplying her with carriages, servants, and money; but he was a jealous man, and fancied she favoured her *valet* more than she should do. He discharged the servant on a moment's notice, and then arranged that he should be invited to call at his master's house for his clothes, &c.: but when he got there he was bound hand and foot, and the *hero*—his master—came into the room and horse-whipped the helpless object of his wrath. When he had done so he boasted to Mrs. Phillips of his prowess, upon which she exclaimed—"You mean, cowardly cur! you call yourself a gentleman, but you are a pitiful wretch, a disgrace to your sex, and too vile a creature to be tolerated in society." She left him on the spot; and although it is now more than a hundred and thirty years since this event happened, the story of "The Cheshire *Hero*" is not unknown to many of the squires of our own day; so that it can be said to our credit, as a people, that "a cowardly cur," who can stoop to horse-whip a fellow-creature, when in bonds, is always despised in society, though he be dressed up in purple and fine linen."

Poor Mrs. Phillips lived to see the vanity of all earthly pleasures; to banish her many sins; to strive after a better life; and then she died and was buried. Some mourned for her, and covered her grave with flowers, but in time the remembrance of her passed away; and it is probable that, but for her "Apology," this failing daughter of a great house would have been unknown to us of the present generation. I give you this short account of her both as a warning and a memorial of the evils of sin.

VAUXHALL.

[1770] A JOURNEY WITH CONVICTS FROM
CHESTER GAOL.

Thinking it may interest the readers of the CHESHIRE SHEAF, I copy this somewhat peculiar reminiscence of the good old coaching days gone by, from REYNARDSON'S "DOWN THE ROAD":—

"It was not very often that one met with disagreeable company outside a coach, from the fact that coaches did not usually carry the *οἱ πολλοί*; and the class of roughs that sometimes are to be seen in these railroad days in a third-class carriage, or in an excursion train. The class of people that are now to be seen making excursions everywhere, from the Land's End to Johnny Groat's house,—in the good old time when 'the only steam came from the kettle' stayed at home. They attended to their business, looked after their wives and families, and were less inclined to roam than in these go-a-head days; for the simple reason that they could not 'ride,' and therefore, if they wanted to go any distance, they had to walk, or go by the stage-waggon or carrier's cart, both of which were not only somewhat dearer than walking, but quite as slow.

There were, however, at times a certain class of gentlemen who travelled at His Majesty's expense, and went under the denomination of 'gaol birds.' Having once had the pleasure of enjoying their agreeable society on a coach, some notice of what took place upon this agreeable occasion may not be an uninteresting incident of 'Down the Road.' I never heard of any other person who had the good fortune to travel with such a thorough set of scoundrels. In fact, on that memorable day, my companions were none other than THE CHESTER GAOL DELIVERY!

In or about the month of November, 1834, I got upon the 'Albion' coach, which ran from BIRKENHEAD, via Chester, to London, at Whitechurch, in Shropshire. There was room on the box, so up I got by the side of the coachman. I did not at that moment take much notice of the passengers; but I recollect that the day was cold, and they looked a 'roughish lot.' I remember that I wondered why there was room on the box, which was a very unusual thing; for the box is, and was, and I suppose always will be, the seat *par excellence* of all seats on a coach.

'I suppose you know what kind of a load we've got, sir?' said the coachman. 'No,' I said; 'they look a queer lot—what are they?' 'Why,' said he, 'they're all gaol birds.' 'Where are they going?' said I. 'Why, to Botany Bay!' said he, 'and I wish they were there now, for they are inclined to give a little trouble, and would do if they had not 'ruffles' on; but they're pretty safe; they are all fast to the rail,' meaning the rail that went across the coach behind the seat on the roof to prevent the luggage slipping forward. They had two keepers, or turnkeys, with them, and there was no one else on the coach but these worthies, their attendants, and myself, and the coachman and

guard of the coach. As it was known all along the road that the Chester Gaol had been 'delivered,' and that her children were going to pass that day on their way to the hulks, many 'birds of the same feather' were in waiting at the different places where we changed, to say good-bye to their old 'pals': and it was with some difficulty that the keepers could prevent their old acquaintances from plying them with drink, and giving them a parting drop to keep their spirits up. Some of them looked cold enough, for it was a real November day, and I remarked that they had not much in the shape of great coats and such little comforts. In spite of all the precautions taken, some of them had had quite enough, and indeed too much, to drink, and they were somewhat inclined to be "uproarious." It was a comfort to us that they were handcuffed and unable to do much mischief, for which they seemed quite ready. I got off the coach at either Shifnal or Wolverhampton, I forget now which place it was, but I remember it was beginning to be a little dusk, and we lit the lamps. The coachman called my attention to two respectable looking men, I may say they appeared to be gentlemen, who were getting out of the coach, preceded by a keeper. "There's two of the same kind!" said he, "they've been convicted of forgery, and are going to be transported for life." It was easy to see, as they got out of the coach, that they were handcuffed, for they were obliged to step out very "daintily," their hands being closely locked together in an "iron embrace." Being the greatest swells of the party, and all the places on the roof being occupied by the other ruffians, they had been allowed what was called to 'ride inside' with one of the turnkeys. I was delighted not to be going any further, and was glad to see the coachman get on his box again and drive off with his precious load. More than one of them was half drunk, and they left, singing, "We're off to Botany Bay!" at the top of their voices. It was, as it happened, a lucky thing for me that I got off when I did; for before reaching Walsall the horses shied at some sparks flying across the road from a blacksmith's shop, bolted, and, running against a lamp-post, upset the coach in the streets of Walsall. No one was killed; but the coachman never got over the injuries he received, and, I heard, ultimately died of them."

"During the confusion caused by this accident, and whilst another coach and coachman were being got ready to take them in, some of the convicts contrived to get files and other implements from their friends, and in a most artistic way got their handcuffs into such a form, that they could get them off when they chose! They had made an agreement that at a certain spot they should set themselves free, and spring upon the keepers. This they did in a long, straight bit of road not far from Dunchurch. They overpowered the keepers, took their spare handcuffs, which they put on them, and paid the same delicate attention to the coachman and guard! They then cut the traces and let loose the horses, themselves making the best of their way across the fields.

The greater part of them were retaken, but the two gentlemen forgers escaped!"

Any further information on this local incident, which must be within the recollection of some of our readers, would doubtless be interesting.

Cambridge.

T. CANN HUGHES.

Queries.

[1771] TROUTBECK'S PLACE, CHESTER.

Is there a court or alley in Chester now bearing the name of TROUTBECK'S PLACE—and if not, when did it pass out of existence, and whereabouts in the old city was it located?

A YOUNG READER.

[1772] THE HIGHEST GROUND IN CHESTER.

In Panyer Alley, near Paternoster Row, London, I recollect, when quite a girl, being struck with an evidently ancient (I have sometimes since thought perhaps Roman) sculptured stone, bearing the figure of a child seated on an osier basket, on which was then plainly to be read the words:—

"When y'v have sovght the City round, Yet still this is the highest grovnd. Augvst the 27, 1688."

Assuming this statement to be more or less matter of fact, I am led to enquire what is regarded as the highest spot of ground in your own old city?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[1773] EARLY EMIGRANTS TO AMERICA.

Pennsylvania was the State wherein I first saw the light, and there too my father and grandfather were born, well into the eighteenth century. An ancestor of theirs again, one FRANCIS ADAMS, came out from the old country in about the reign of your James II., bringing one or more children out with him; but leaving behind him in his native city of CHESTER a son RICHARD ADAMS, as I gather a merchant or professional man resident there. FRANCIS ADAMS, as our American evidence informs us, was slain by the Indians; but he left an old pocket commonplace book with his New England relatives, referring to his CHESTER origin, but which book I fear does not now survive. I fancy Cheshire descendants of this ADAMS family are still resident amongst you. I should like to ascertain if possible some particulars of my ancestors, prior to their emigration in the 17th century. I think it may be taken as certain that we are a distinct family from the famous Presidents of the same name.

Chicago.

F. ADAMS.

[1774] CHESTER AND THE TRUE CROSS.

The older Catholic families of the Palatinate have a tradition floating among them that CHESTER contained

at or shortly before the Reformation, a portion of the accursed tree upon which the SAVIOUR was crucified on Calvary. What foundation is there for such a belief? Or, if it be a fact, then I would ask, where is the interesting fragment preserved? JUVENIS.

Replies.

[1776]

THE MINSHULLS.

[1754.—May 10, 1882.]

As a pendant to "B. Ll. V.'s" old lady friend's appropriation of the "Minshull-encounter-with-a-Highwayman-story," I beg leave to forward to you another tale which contains the additional identifying fact of a recent bridegroom's murder, to make its narrative still nearer to the incident referred to by your previous correspondent of the 5th January, 1881.

"Extract from the newspaper called *The Times*, of Saturday, May 30, 1812." The words are in the handwriting of my grandfather, John Minshull, who died in the first quarter of this century, at Highgate:—

"On the evening of Saturday, the 30th ult., as a gentleman of the name of MINSHULL was returning from a matrimonial excursion to Greta, and passing over *Shap Fell* to the north of Kendal, with two young ladies in the carriage, they were suddenly alarmed by the cries of the postillion, and before they could enquire the cause, the doors of the carriage were burst open; and two men darted forward armed with pistols which they presented to the breast of the gentleman and demanded his money; he perhaps, not thinking the pistols were loaded, made some resistance, when one of the ruffians immediately discharged the contents of his weapon into his breast, and with the assistance of his comrade rifled his pockets, while he was weltering in his blood, of everything valuable. They then decamped with their booty without molesting the ladies, who became insensible when they made their appearance. Upon their recovery, what was their horror at the sight which presented itself! One of them, possessing more presence of mind than the other, went in search of the postillion, whom they found, tied hand and foot, upon the ground. They then pursued their melancholy journey to the nearest town, where soon after their arrival, the unfortunate man expired. He was a young man of very promising abilities, and was the last male descendant from the ancient *Earls* of that name of Church Minshull, in Cheshire."

Such was the printed paragraph forwarded to my grandfather by his niece, and which has come into my hands with numerous other letters from his daughter, my mother. Should any one wish to hear further, I shall be ready to show the letter which forwarded the above extract, and the printed extract itself, should he not

be able to consult *The Times* of the date mentioned; but I am quite without the means of throwing any light upon the story if it is based on truth, or of identifying the parties if they ever existed. If false the story is a lie not without a circumstance but with circumstances, and one false, for the mention of an Earl of the Family of MINSHULL is out of the question; although both Sir Harris Nicolas and Banks speak of a supposed Barony created by Charles I., although never enrolled! The place of the murder might, on local inquiry, serve to test the truth, and yet even if the story survives in the neighbourhood of Kendal it may only be as a consequence of the paragraph in *The Times*, perhaps itself altogether a fiction! It is certain, anyhow, that the only branch of the MINSHULLS that could ever have had any ground for supposing itself ennobled by Charles I. was that of Sir Richard Minshull, of Aston Clinton, Bucks, who appears from papers in the State Paper Office to have been attached to the service of the Queen Henrietta Maria.

Stafford.

T. J. M.

JUNE 21, 1882.

Original Documents.

[1776] ARCHDEACON CHURTON AT EDGE HALL.

Archdeacon CHURTON was an industrious and reliable CHESHIRE antiquary of some eighty years ago, to whom Dr. OMEROD frequently in his *History* of the county expresses his hearty obligations. Nothing, indeed, pleased the Archdeacon more in his learned leisure than to fall in with a bundle of old deeds or musty letters bearing upon CHESHIRE, which busy-bee-like he would never leave until he had extracted therefrom every particle of historic or literary honey.

Amongst the MS. documents and papers preserved very carefully at EDGE HALL, long the residence and estate of the DOD family, and now the seat of the Rev. C. WOLLEY DOD, are a number of letters and papers, some of them of merely personal or ephemeral interest, but many on the contrary assisting in the unravelment of many local questions of historic import. These we shall hope to discuss from time to time in *THE SHEAF*, as opportunity serves.

Archdeacon CHURTON had, in 1814, been overhauling the deed chest of the DODs, at their family seat at EDGE; and on completing what he professes was but an imperfect examination, he writes to his old friend (then a retired Dragoon officer, residing at Lewes, in Sussex), in the following terms:—

"Dear Sir,—I am sorry I have done so little; but the business to be done well does not admit of great speed. You will treasure them up carefully, for

they [the Dod Charters, Deeds and Papers] are as valuable as old gold to an Edge or Malpas or Nantwich, or Cheshire antiquary,—though they may possibly not add to the estates of the Lord of the Manor of Great Edge.

The large yellow seal, with the mutilated warrior on horseback, I read, but not confidently '[C]ORNVEIE ET EBOR'VM ET COMITIS C[ESTRIE]'. Reverse, 'COMITATVS PALATINI SVI CEST[RIN]'. I wish you may find the remainder entire! There is a similar seal I just saw, perhaps of good Queen Bess on horseback.

I leave you & your charters with regret; but
chari liberi et placens Uxor!

I am, Dear Sir,

Your faithful & obliged serv't,
R. CHURTON.

The Nantwich Box, I suspect, is very curious.
Edge, Sept. 22, 1816."

Mr. Thomas, of Chester, is now looking over more of the other papers.

Mr. Thos. Crewe DOD, of Edge, adds, as a note to this letter—

This [letter] was written about 4 or 5 years ago, but he, the Archdeacon, was called away, as he says above, to return to his dear children and pleasing wife.

The address on this letter is 'Cornet Dod, 1st Drag'n G'ds, Lewes, Sussex.'

We wonder what can have become of that "very curious Nantwich Box?" and what may have been its antiquarian contents? Let us trust it may even yet, after its 68 years laying under a bushel, turn up to gladden the heart, and while "pointing a moral," also "adorn the tale" of many a Cheshire enquirer of the future! Would that every local lord of the soil would lay to heart the Archdeacon's suggestion to "Cornet Dod," to treasure up his family records and look upon them as "valuable as old gold!"

EDITOR.

[1777] SIR THOMAS HOLCROFT, OF VALE ROYAL.

Among the many Royal favourites, parasites of the venal court of King Henry VIII., and who owed their rising fortunes more or less to an unscrupulous following out of their monarch's iron will, it would be difficult to point out a worse example than the first Sir THOMAS HOLCROFT, a close body-servant of the King, by whom he was knighted at Leith in 1544. He had gradually acquired such an influence over HENRY, and yet was so subservient openly to his every will and caprice, that it was woe-betide those who made an enemy of the man who, though an alien to our county by blood and birth, yet was able to lead the tyrant therein pretty much in some things round his finger and thumb! How he gloated over the ruin of the Church in that day; how he fastened his raven claw without remorse or shame on the Abbey of VALE ROYAL; how

by a course of cruelty happily without its parallel, at all events in Cheshire, he drove out the unfortunate abbot and his defenceless monks, and by subornation of perjury and a variety of fiendish wiles, contrived to make the worse appear the better part; all these, and worse sins still, history lays at the door of that arch sinner HOLCROFT! There is a proverb, I almost think a Cheshire one—that "what comes over the devil's back is sure to slip away again under his belly"; and assuredly such was the case with most of the despoilers of religious houses in the 16th century, Sir THOMAS HOLCROFT and his kith and kin amongst the rest. As to his having done it in the cause of religion, that was simply an infamous cloke, and a slander on the very name; for not one in twenty nominally religious men, lay or clerical, would soil their tongues or finger tips with so base and palpable a misnomer.

But it is with the second Sir THOMAS HOLCROFT, rather a different man apparently from his unscrupulous father, that we have now to do. Both of them creatures of a corrupt court, the son had managed to ingratiate himself also with Queen Elizabeth; and by a ready acquiescence with her many foibles, continued one of the officers of the privy chamber, and retained possession of his estate of VALE ROYAL, and others in like manner illgotten and much impoverished, until his death. Then came the fall of the spoilers; and the estates fell, in 1616, to Lady MARY CHOLMONDELEY, King JAMES I.'s "bold lady of Cheshire," as he merrily termed her during his Royal progress through Cheshire in 1617, when he was for several days her welcome guest at VALE ROYAL Abbey.

Sir THOMAS, writing to Mr., afterwards Sir, EDWARD DOD, Baron of the Exchequer of CHESTER, says:—

"Mr. Dod, this Packett from yo'r brother Came hether this morninge from london, sente hether ffrom [Grafton crossed out in original] Gawsworth, who came ffrom london. I praye you Come hether with the messenger: for I longe & haue cause to speake with you. God beyre you, & com'ende me & my wyffe to yo'r selfe & to yo'r wyfe & to my God sonne, whom God euer blesse, I praye.

Yo're assured,

THO: HOLCROFT.

December 27th, 1605.

Mr. Justice (Worburton) goeth in haat on w'th the myzes.

I longe to talke with you of itt: I praye you Come hether spedelie, for more then about that:

[Addressed on outside]

To my assured frende

Mr. Edwards Dod,

esq'r., thes be d'd., &c., Edge."

In this letter to Mr. Dod, which has just cropped up among the documents and papers at EDGE HALL, we are left to wonder what special business it was beyond "the myzes," which Sir Peter Warburton, according to Sir Thomas Holcroft, "goeth in haat on w'th;" but, as

he declares to Mr. Dod, he wanted "spedelis to talk with him for more then about that:" and so perforce we, wondering, leave them to their coming tete-a-tete.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1778] RANDLE DE GERMONS, EARL OF CHESTER, EARL OF STAFFORDSHIRE!

It seems singular that the historical episode implied by this heading should have been left by the historians of Staffordshire, as well as by those of the Palatinate, to the comment of a Shropshire antiquary.

The Convention of Devises was printed by Sir Peter Leycester and also by Dugdale. It has been alluded to by more recent writers, but its bearing had been little understood, nor had its details been dwelt upon. Some have even treated it as a Treaty by HENRY with STEPHEN, whereas it was a menacing alliance against STEPHEN, and more truly a convention with the Cheshire Earl, who was also Viscount of the Avranches, securing to him many advantages. These are detailed at length from the words of the Treaty, by the late R. W. EYTON, in a most learned contribution to the second volume of the Staffordshire Collections, edited by the W. Salt Archaeological Society, which forms part of the Staffordshire Chartulary (series i., pp. 220-4).

It is abundantly evident from the context that this Cheshire Earl, like Hugh Lupus, was able to set a very high value upon his services. "It behoved," says Mr. EYTON, "both him and the Duke (HENRY) that they should understand one another. The Charter was their understanding. The Duke tells Earl Randle what he is prepared to give for the Earl's assistance in the recovery of the Duke's rights, and the Earl accepts the offer." The time was the obscure one, historically, of 1153. The benefit to the Earl was not simply the confirmation to the Earl of all his rights in Normandy and England. Where the Earl had been Viscount in Normandy he is now made Earl—i.e., of Avranches, &c. By a grant to him of what Roger de Pictou had held, the Duke gave the Earl the whole of Lancashire between the Ribble and the Mersey—the nucleus of the, afterwards, still more extensive Duchy of Lancaster." "Moreover," HENRY adds, "I have given unto him Stafford and Staffordshire and the whole county of Stafford, whatever I have hitherto had therein, in fee and inheritance, except the Fief of the Bishop of Chester, and of Earl Robert de Ferrers, and of Hugh de Mortimer, and of Gervase Paganell, and except the Forest of Cannock, which I retain in my own hands." "This," says Mr. EYTON, "is very straight language." But the hand of the assassin Paganell intercepted the grant before it was realised. The Duke was not then sovereign *de facto*, and

the next Earl of Chester did not occupy a position entitling him to impose conditions so enormous.

Stafford.

T. J. M.

[1779]

THE LEGHS OF LYME.

"Antiquus" writes to the *Manchester Guardian* :—

"Sir,—I venture to call attention to a statement in the very excellent and interesting article in your paper of Thursday, on 'The Past Fauna of Lancashire and Cheshire,' in which the writer speaks of the Leghs of Lyme. There is a popular idea that this estate was granted to a Sir Piers Legh, for the services which he rendered at the Battle of Crecy in the capacity of standard-bearer to the Black Prince. The writer of the article repeats this, but I venture to think that he is under a misapprehension in the matter. The battle of Crecy took place in the year 1346, during the reign of Edward III. The manor of Lyme was granted to Piers Legh, as the writer asserts, during the reign of Richard II. It was, in fact, granted in the 21st Richard II. (1398), or 52 years after Crecy was won. And the grant was made on the marriage of Piers Legh (of Adlington) to the daughter of Sir Thomas Danyers, who had been engaged under the Black Prince at Crecy, and who was instrumental in relieving the royal standard when most closely pressed. For this service and for the capture of de Tankerville, chamberlain of France, the Prince settled an annuity of 40 marks upon Sir T. Danyers, out of his manor at Frodsham, 'until a convenient grant of £20 per annum could be made.' The 'convenient grant' was found half a century later and settled upon the daughter of Sir T. Danyers on the happy occasion of her third marriage. This 'grant' was the Lyme estate; and it has remained in the possession of the Leghs ever since. It had previously been a part of the Royal Forest of Macclesfield. It is an open question whether Piers Legh ever became a knight; but that he never fought at Crecy seems established beyond a doubt; one authority (Earwaker) even asserts that he was not born at that time. The error seems to have arisen in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, through a mistake on the part of William Flower, Norroy King at Arms; who, on granting an augmentation of arms to the Leghs, seems to have got 'mixed' somehow or other, and credited Piers Legh with the doings of his father-in-law on the great field of Crecy. It is not an agreeable task to dissipate a story of personal merit and heroism on the part of a founder of one of our old houses; but on the whole it is better to have a fact than a fiction of comparatively recent invention. The best authorities are agreed that Piers Legh became possessor of Lyme by marriage, and not on account of anything that he did on the field of battle. Piers Legh was beheaded at Chester on August 1st, 1399, in consequence of his attachment to the cause of the unfortunate RICHARD II. He remained in possession of Lyme little more than one short year. He left dame Margaret a widow for the third time, and she is said to have survived him many years."

ALIAS.

[1780] BANGOR ISCOROED SCHOOL.

The following inscription appears on a stone panel over the entrance to the Endowed School at BANGOR ISCOROED, Flintshire:—

This School was built and endowed by the charity of Dame Dorothy Jeffreys late of Acton who by her will bequeathed the sum of five hundred pounds for the teaching to read and write and instructing in the catechism of the Church of England and for putting out apprentices poor children of the parish of Bangor the righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance

The above inscription occupies ten lines on the panel.

Dame DOROTHY JEFFREYS, the founder and endower of this village school, was the wife and widow of Sir Griffith Jeffreys, of Acton by Wrexham, knight. Some further particulars of both knight and lady have already appeared in THE SHEAF. T. P.

[1781] MACCLESFIELD THEATRE.

Histrionics have never taken very high rank at MACCLESFIELD,—the race for very life in that shuttle-moved town having been, to all appearance, inimical to the growth of the legitimate drama. Still, there has been a Theatre of some sort at MACCLESFIELD for upwards of a century. The first structure of the kind was erected in Chester-gate, in 1770, and was built wholly of wood. It occupied the site of what was, first a house tenanted by a Miss Watson, but afterwards converted into an iron-foundry, and, in the end, destroyed by fire. In this wooden building the celebrated Harriett Mellon, afterwards 9th Duchess of St. Albans, electrified her audience with her wondrous impersonations; and many another first and second-rate star strutted their allotted parts on those but little known boards.

I saw recently, in an old-bookseller's shop in London, a sort of MS. Diary, of about 400 pages in 4to., dating about the year 1800, and recording the writer's experience of some 300 Theatres scattered about the provinces. The MS. abounded with interesting details as to theatres, actors, and theatre-goers in the large and smaller country towns, and had, I noticed, the following paragraph relating to Macclesfield:—

"MACCLESFIELD. Old Stanton, Manager, 1795. Played in a temporary building. The dressing rooms were the stalls of a stable, and the roof so bad, they had pattens and umbrellas to walk to the wings; people in the pit called for blankets to keep them from catching cold, and actually sat with umbrellas in the pit. Miss Mellon played 'Lady Teazle,' and waited at the [door] to go on the stage with an umbrella. It was occasioned by an unexpected rainy evening. Stanton was very correct in beginning at the time advertized. He went, on one occasion, from Macclesfield on business, and deputed

his son to be manager. He, however, was not so correct as his father, who unexpectedly returned about a quarter of an hour after the announced time of beginning: finding no performance going on, or performers dressed, he rung up the curtain, and made every one go on in the state they were. Young Stanton went on without breeches."

H. S. A.

[1782] A CHESHIRE INQUEST AVOIDED.

The *Saturday Review*, of Nov. 12th, 1871, contains an article on the General Post Office, London, from which the following whimsical Cheshire anecdote is extracted:—

"A man in CHESHIRE writes a letter to the Coroner and Jury who are going to hold an inquest on him after he has committed suicide. It is full of bitter complaints against his friends. Either, however, his courage failed him, or he came to take a more cheerful view of life; for he did not commit suicide after all; and thus the letter reached the Returned Letter Office, and not the CHESHIRE CORONER."

Brookwood, Surrey. T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Queries.

[1783] CHESTER AT THE REVOLUTION.

On what side was the old city chiefly ranged at the first blush of the Revolution of 1688,—and is it known when William of Orange was proclaimed at CHESTER, and by whom? The history of the city in the reign of William and Mary, so far as I can make out, has yet to be written.

Stookport.

MARY O. LATRY.

[1784] THE GOBLIN'S TOWER AT CHESTER CASTLE.

In one of the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum, No. 2077, is a note referring to some records "in the rolls of paper remaining in the GOBLIN'S TOWER in the Castle of CHESTER, in the great chest, bound with iron." This would be written about 1650. Is the name still known, or has it disappeared since that date?

E.

Replies.

[1785] BOLESWORTH CASTLE,—A POEM.

[Nos. 1177, 1593.—June 9, 1880, April 13, 1881.]

No. 1,593 is a reply to a question as to the author of an anonymous poem called "BOLESWORTH CASTLE."

This was p'claimed vnder his standard, after the Aahem'ts [Hatchments] were offred vp :

Our most gracious Son'aighe Lorde Kinge James by his letters patents dated 23 feb: in the 14th yeare of his Reigne Created S'r Rich: Grosvenor of Eaton with the title of Bar'tt, to him & his heires males for en', by virtue of w'ch graunt it came to his sone and here S'r Ric: Grosvenor now deceased, & is to descend to his grandchild Thomas the sone & heire of Roger, who is fro' hence forth to haue the place and tittle of Bar'tt, according to his ances'trs graunt, By the nam of Sr: Tho: Grosvenor Bartt: whom God graunt longe to flourish.

God saue the Kinge.'

So much for the Funeral Procession of the second Sir RICHARD GROSVENOR, the interest of which is not confined to these few introductory lines; and I may possibly return to the subject on some future occasion, for the history of the Grosvenor family is synonymous, for nearly three centuries at any rate, with the history of old CHESTER itself.

T. HUGHES.

[1788] BISHOP BAYLEY OF BANGOR.

The will of this dignitary of the Welsh Church having never we believe been printed, the following abstract of it, furnished by our esteemed correspondent "ALLEN," may fitly claim a home in the pages of "THE SHEAF."

The Document is dated Sept. 8, 1631, and begins thus:—

"I, Lewis, Lorde Bishoppe of Bangor, sicke in body but of perfect mind, &c, &c;" desires to be buried in the Quier of Bangor Cathedral. Lands &c, to well beloved wife Anne Baylye; after her decease to his son Nicholas & his heirs &c, and in default to his (Bishop's) daughter Ellinor. 500*£* to dau: Ellinor when 16 years of age. To his "dearly beloved sister Magdalen Bagenall, one guilte cupp with a cover, in remembrance of her unfayned love towards me and myne." 5*£* to his son John Bayley, Doctor of divinitie. 40*£* to his son Theodor Baylye. His "study of books to his son Thomas Bayley." 5*£* to his brother Thomas Baylye. 5*£* to his daughter Mary Hill. 50*£* to his grandaon Lewys Baylye, son of Theophilus Baylye, "to be paid him in 1642." 5*£* to his 'grandchild Jane Baylye, dau: of John Baylye Doctor of Divinitie,' &c. 5*£* to poore of Bangor, and 40*s.* each to poor of Amlwch and Llangristiolus. 5*£* to town of Carmarthen "to buy a Bell." Appoints his wife Anne & son Nicholas to be Executors, and John Payne, clerk, and John Sibbord, overseers, and gives them 40*s.* or a Bible each. Proved at Bangor by Anne Baylye, widowe, 2nd May, 1632."

In about 16 months the widow herself died also, as appears by the following Funeral Certificate, contributed from Harleian MS., No. 2180, by our before-named correspondent "ALLEN":—

"p. 88*b*. Mrs [Anne] baley widow dyed the xjth day of September, 1633, in the City of Chester, &

was buried in the Cathedrall Church of the sayd city. She was daughter to S'r Henry Bagnall, kt. Marshall of Ireland, and married lewys bayley sometime bushop of bangor, and had [entry stops here.]"

The original Register Book of Burials for the parish of St. OSWALD's at Chester records the actual burial of Bishop Bayley's widow in the following terms:—

"M^{rs} Anne Baylie, widdow to the B^p of Bangor, buried 11^o Sept., 1633."

We wonder whether Carmarthen received and still possesses the Bell bequeathed to that town by the Bishop, and whether it bears any inscription commemorating the fact? EDITOR.

Notes.

[1789] CONSPIRACY AT CHESTER GAOL.

The *Annual Register* of March, 1767, says:—

"A conspiracy was formed among the felons in the North Gate Jail of CHESTER, wherein one Evan Thomas, who was confined for a murder and robbery, was the ring leader. About eight, when the turnkey was going to put him and three others into the dungeon, Thomas seized him, and threw him into the dungeon, and took the key from him and locked him in. His cries brought MR. WHITEHEAD, the gaoler, down to his assistance, when Thomas ran a pen-knife into his throat, and killed him on the spot. They went up into the house, and seizing MRS. WHITEHEAD, demanded the key of the North Gate from her, who told them that her husband had it in his pocket; upon which they went down stairs to search for it. In the meantime MRS. WHITEHEAD unlocked the Northgate door, to call assistance; but they came up again, and seized her while the door was open: three men, however, coming out of the street secured three of the felons, but Evan Thomas made his escape. His irons were found the next day in a field near the city."

Further issues of the Magazine are silent as to Evan Thomas's fate. A. R.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

[1790] BURIED STATUE AT BUNBURY.

A month or two ago the local and other newspapers were alive with excitement at the rumour of the discovery of a very curious relic in the pretty churchyard at BUNBURY, a mile or so from BRESTON Station.

Various stories, more or less amusing—some of them, perhaps, even absurd—were soon afloat in the village concerning this figure; for it was the sculptured form of a female that had thus been so unexpectedly exhumed from below the turf of the churchyard. Initials, lozenge of arms, or inscription of any sort there was none dug up with the figure. The villagers therefore, in the absence apparently of any evidence to guide

them, seem to have settled down into the belief that the sculpture before them was an ancient figure of the Virgin Mary that had, they imagined, once dignified the chancel of their old church! Nay, indeed, so precious a relic must it have been considered, thought they, at the date of the Reformation, that, fearful it might be destroyed by the levellers of those times, the pious rustics of BUNBURY determined quietly to take down their holy statue from its place of honour, and hide it away beneath the sward of the churchyard until the return, possibly, of happier days and brighter for their more ancient faith.

By and by the excitement of the discovery gradually subsided: certain scholars and antiquaries of the neighbourhood were communicated with: and it pretty soon transpired, that the suddenly almost revered Virgin of the BUNBURY folk was in fact no figure of the Virgin at all! but belonged to a period later by at least three centuries than any such sacred image could reasonably have been looked for, especially so appalled, in any English church or burial-ground.

This was no doubt a great blow and discouragement to the mystery lovers of BUNBURY: but the facts, as one by one they provokingly came to light, proved that there was a plain and common sense solution at hand to such as would seek for it. It was insisted upon, to start with, that the figure so strangely brought to light could not from its costume be earlier than the reign of ANNE or one of the older GEORGES; that the statue, too, was rather that of a young matron than of an unmarried female!

And then the eye of intelligence fell upon a curious square block of stone at the south-west corner, and at the interior west end of the church; the inscription, upon which, as it now turned out, furnished a perfect solution of the puzzle! This otherwise meaningless block of stone was found to tally most exactly with the base of the so-called statue of the "Virgin" close at hand; and the epitaph inscribed thereon, which I shall print below, told us almost all we wanted to know. It ran thus:—

"Near this Place Lie the Remains of IANE,
late Wife of HENEY JOHNSON, of Nantwich,
in this County, Gent. She departed this Life
April the 6th, 1741. Aged 24.

And also the Bodies of Hamilton and Ioseph,
Sons of the said Henry and Iane.

If Virtue cloath'd with Beauty's dress,
Do in a Double Measure please,
If Virgin Chaste, if Faithfull Wife,
If Tender Mother Shine in Life
This fair one Shin'd, but see how even
Are the Impartial Laws of Heaven.

Uncommon Merit ripens soon,
Grows mellow and falls off in blo'm,
What part of Her had Mortal birth
Return'd to womb of Parent Earth.
Her Heav'n born Soul then wing'd its way
To Regions of Eternal Day.

This Least Monument of his affection for the best of Women was Erected by Her mournfull Widower."

And now who was the lady, and who her spouse, who have thus so oddly risen a second time to posthumous fame at BUNBURY? A search into the Registers of that parish, generously undertaken for the purpose by the Rector, the Rev. E. ROBERTS, has resulted in his finding the following record of their marriage:—

"1735. December 16. Mr. Henry Johnson and Mrs. Jane Moore, p'r license.

Finding from the monument that "Her mournfull Widower" described himself as "of Nantwich in this county, Gent.," I wrote to the worthy rector, the Rev. FOSTER J. BLACKBURN, who very kindly sent me the following extract from his Register of Baptisms:—

"Dec. 15, 1738. Thomas, son of Henry Johnson, Dancing Master, baptized."

The Burial Registers of BUNBURY supply the final link:—

"1741. April 9. Jane, wife of Henry Johnson, Gent., from Nantwich."

This brings our story to a logical end. The statue is in its origin neither sacred nor profane, and so far from having any association with "the Virgin," or the early church at Bunbury, represented with probably indifferent success the features and form of a simple dancing master's wife "from Nantwich!"

T. H.

Queries.

[1791] CHESHIRE FIELD AND PLACE NAMES.

There is a source from which many things of local interest might be obtained, not yet I think touched upon in THE SHEAF, but which, if taken up, might afford a good deal of matter for discussion. It will be found in the peculiar names of fields and particular localities, the origin of which, if known or traceable, would be well worth recording. In old surveys of townships and estate field books, and particularly in cases of sales of estates, names are frequently met with that point to some local incident or noteworthy person.

If the subject were mooted in your columns, it might lead to investigation that would bring to light many facts and circumstances at present hidden.

Tushingham Hall.

B. LL. VAWDREY.

[1792] CASTLES UNDER CHURCH PROTECTION.

There was a pretty conceit once rife in CHESHIRE people's minds that, while the county was handsomely furnished with powerful castles for its defence in early times, these castles were in turn under the loving protec-

tion of the church militant. Can a list of these fortresses be given, with the names of the particular religious houses said to have been charged to offer prayers for their safety from constant peril?

H. S. A.

[1793] A CHESTER LEAVE-LOOKER.

A gentleman who died in the year 1679 is said to have died in the year of his "Leave-lookership." A correspondent asks me, "Can you tell me what this means?" Perhaps you can give some information as to the duties of this interesting office?

S. COOPER SCOTT.

Replies.

[1794] A CHESHIRE 17TH CENTURY GIPSY.

[Nos. 1670, 1690, 1697.—Jan. 18, Feb. 15, 1882.]

This neighbourhood would appear to have been a favourite camping-ground of the Gipsies from time immemorial. I have often heard accounts of their visits in the past, then not so few and far between as now. And if I recall some of my own earliest recollections, I see the tents pitched on the broad strip of green by the roadside,—the blue smoke curling up from the fire of sticks on the ground, over which the steaming pot with its mysterious contents swings. I see the Gipsy men and women in their bright picturesque dresses, tinkering, chair-mending, basket-making, fortune-telling,—the untrammelled gambols of the children and dogs and donkeys adding incident to the scene.

Over fifty years ago, in the depth of what even old people allow to have been a really old fashioned winter, a Gipsy child was born not far from this place under exceptionally peculiar circumstances. As usual the Gipsies had encamped by the roadside, and on this occasion, not far from a then being worked colliery, —TRUBSHAW. The snow was very deep at the time, and the poor creatures were completely snowed up. Added to this most discomfiting state of things was the fact that the young Gipsy wife's confinement was imminent. The Colliers chivalrously dug and shovelled away the snow, and (to their honour be it recorded) at great inconvenience to themselves in such an inclement season, generously gave up their warm cabin for weeks to the Gipsy family! :—here the child was born and became an object of considerable solicitude to many. My father tells me that he saw it on several occasions; and an old female friend of mine, who also remembers all the circumstances of the case, informs me that the child was christened at the neighbouring church of NEWCHAPEL,—the event exciting the greatest interest, and several residents of the

neighbourhood acting as sponsors,—and was named FANNY TRUBSHAW. From what I can gather, the family name would be LEE. This child is supposed to have died young. My feminine informant also states, that the mother, a fine-looking woman, was not a Gipsy by birth, the report and belief at the time being that she was a farmer's daughter who had married the young Gipsy father of the child.

Within the last thirty years or so, a number of Gipsies have been buried in the Churchyard of S. THOMAS', MOW COP (Staffordshire). Several of these had been brought long distances, necessitating travel by night and day, in order that they might rest beside other members of the same family—touching evidence and illustration of the sentiment and affection of survivors. I remember, when a boy, once witnessing the arrival of one of these Gipsy Funeral processions, at the above-mentioned Church, on a certain Sunday at the conclusion of the afternoon service. The mourners, male and female, were variously but neatly dressed, and their demeanour was as quiet and orderly and becoming as that of any company of mourners I ever saw.

A small colony of Gipsies, consisting chiefly of females, has been settled for years at a Staffordshire village about a mile from this place. Their houses consist of old railway carriages and other wooden erections, in the construction, arrangement, and decoration of which some taste is evidenced, all being scrupulously clean. Of those buried as above-mentioned, several have belonged to this settlement; and near the eastern wall of the Churchyard is a neat headstone commemorating one of these, who is described as having been a fine young fellow, who could both read and write well. The stone bears the following inscription:—

" To
THE MEMORY OF
WILLIAM WALLER,
WHO DIED AUGUST 18TH, 1871,
AGED 18 years.

He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet
shall he live.

St. John, xi, 25."

One whose calling and experience entitle him to a hearing on such a subject assures me, that he never saw exhibited by any class of persons greater tenderness and affection for their dead than by the Gipsies.

Mow Cop, Cheshire.

G. H.

[1795]

CHESHIRE TOKENS.

[No. 1685.—Feb. 1, 1882.]

Conder describes the BRESTON Token as follows:—

OBY. Ruins of a Castle on a Hill, a Bridge and
Trees, "Beeston Castle."

REV. S. A. C. 1797, in a double circle of Dots,
"Cheshire Halfpenny Token."

But he gives no explanation of the "S. A. C." I hope that some of your readers made be able to give it, or at least suggest some clue.

In the CHESTER Token, "P." was misprinted for "R.," B. & Co., being the initials of the firm of ROE, who had the copper works at Macclesfield.

Tarporley.

J. H. C.

[1796] REGIMENTAL BEARS AT CHESTER.

[No. 1763.—May 31, 1882.]

The 46th Regt., under the command of Col. Robert (afterwards Sir Robert) Garrett, had its head-quarters in CHESTER for about 18 months in 1849-50, and had two pet Bears "Jack" and "Jenny," which were brought from Canada on the return of the Regt. from the Dominion, then a simply Colony. There was nothing special in the matter, as many regiments on returning from that Colony bring home young Bears.

E. C. H.

CUTHBERT BEDE has been good enough to allow me a sight of his Drawing of CHESTER CASTLE and City Walls as they stood in 1849. Already the sketch has become historic; for the wooden sheds at that time occupying the foreground underneath the "higher wards" of the Castle, and affording shelter for the young Bears, have since then been replaced by more substantial structures of stone.

Another wing has been added to the County (now Military) Prison; but the most prominent object in CUTHBERT BEDE's well-selected view,—the picturesque old Tower of St. JOHN'S CHURCH, has entirely disappeared, the steeple having suddenly collapsed and become a ruin on the night of the 14th April, 1881.

T. HUGHES.

JULY 19, 1882.

Original Documents.

—

[1797] GENERAL MONCK AND THE PORT OF CHESTER.

I send you the following copies of original papers preserved among the Cowper MSS. at Conover Hall, and which, so far as I am aware, have never before appeared in print:—

(1) "A Certificate in Gen'l. Monck's own hand," [so endorsed].

"I George Monck Leiftenant Collonell to the right honourable the earle of Leicester Lord Leiftenant of Ireland and Generall of his maiesties forces for this present expedition, doe certifie those whome these maie concerne that thomas Printon m'er [master] of the grace of Chester has brought to dubling [Dublin], 16 horses of the officers of his exoellencies regiment."

"given vnder my hand this

"24: of februarie 1641[2].

GEORGE MONCK."

CAPTAIN SANDFORD, OF "THE FIRELOCKS."

(2) An original Certificate in Thomas Sandford's autograph [so endorsed].

"These are to Certifie that the bearer hereof John Davie owner of the barke called the Gift of God of Calberne in Scotland did saufely Land on Tewsday Last being the 23 of March instant at the Port of Dublin one hundred and fine Souldiers w'th three offic'rs all in safty: wherefore I earnestly intreate he may forthw'th receive his pay.

This vnder my hand this 25 of March 1642[3]. Dublin."

"THOMAS SANDFORD."

"To the right wor'll the Major of Chester."

[P:S] "hee alsoe brought w'th him twoe men of the Company of Capitaine Dimock: I intreate my sick men may be sent after mee they are fine in number."

THOMAS SANDFORD."

How different the fortunes of these two soldiers! Both came to CHESTER with the Irish Army (as it was called) from Dublin to the aid of KING CHARLES in Nov., 1643. Captain SANDFORD, after the gallant assaults at HAWARDEN and BRESTON CASTLES, was slain at NANTWICH on the 18th Jan., 1643-4; and seven days after, t.-Col. MONCK was taken prisoner at ACTON Church near the same town. He remained a prisoner at Nantwich several weeks, and thence he was removed to the Tower. On regaining his liberty, he served the Commonwealth until the death of Cromwell; and afterwards was instrumental in bringing back KING CHARLES II., who loaded him with honours, and created him Duke of Albemarle. He died on the 3rd of January, 1673, and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

BRADSHAW, THE REGICIDE.

(3) An original autograph letter of PRESIDENT BRADSHAW, in which he alludes to his appointment, in March of the previous year, to be Chief Justice of CHESTER and FLINT. The letter, which is slightly worn away on one side, is as follows:—

"Sir

I rec'd one from you & 3 other Ald'rmen by this last Post w'ch is the first Tyme I hard [have heard] from you synce I was by ye p'lyam't appoynted for y't service of Chester. You well know ye occasion . . . omytting Chester ye last Tyme & yf ye like or oth'r sad . . . Impedym't doe not happen you may be assured I wyll no . . . alter from ye vsuall place of holdinge ye grand sessions, nor shall I be lesse affectionate to yo'r Cytie then [than] any of my pr'decessors in Office haue bene, wherein I may doe you reall good: And I shall hope also That yo'rself & ye oth'r Gouernors of ye Cytie & Assystants in Offyce to you will be myndfull of ye Cyties true welfare w'ch at pr'sent consysts in nothing more then [than] in a Cheerefull & Constant compliyanse w'th ye Dyrections of p'lyam't & in them w'th ye Kingdomes true Interest w'ch is the

Duty & Dyscretyon of enery honest Englyshman
to doe. And in so doing & not oth'rwys no man
shall more willingly comply w'th you nor wyah him-
self more enabled to serve

you then [than]

yo'r old Acquayntance &
wel wyahing fryend

"Grayes Inne Jo: BRADSHAWE.
1 Aug: 1648.

"My Respects to yo'r Brethren."

[Endorsed on the back] "for the Right wor'p'll
Mr. Robt. Wright
Maio'r of Chester,"

"this: post is payd."

Willaston, Nantwich. JAS. HALL.

[1798] HUGH CALVELEY, OF LEA, ESQ.

I send you a verbatim copy of a Warrant issued by
Hugh Calveley, esquire, of Lea, to the Constables of
Pulford, in 1589. It was found under the floor of a
Cottage at PULFORD, pulled down in April, 1882:—

"To the Constables of Pulford, and to eyther of
theym.

These shalbe to will and requyre you, & neu'the-
lesse in the Queenes ma'ties name streightlie to
charge & commaunde you, forthw'th vppo' the sight
hereof to apprehende and attache the body of
Katheren apewe, spinster, late servant w'th Thomas
M'cer, & her in safe & sure manner to bring before
me to aunswere such [m]atter as ne [?] for] the
Queenes ma'tie shalbe obiected against her, & hereof
fayle not at you' p'ills. Ley, this xjth of Nouember,
1589. HUGH CAULVELEY."

This HUGH CALVELEY was second surviving son of
Sir Hugh Calveley, of Lea, near Aldford, who was
knighted at Leith in 1544. Hugh, the son, succeeded
heir to his elder brother Sir George on August 5, 1585,
four years only previous to the issue of the above
warrant. It may be well to record here that a portrait
upon panel of this Sir George is in the possession of
Dr. McEwen, of Chester, whose wife is said to be
lineally descended from these Calveleys of Lea.

What "Katheren apewe, spinster," had been about
to thus bring herself within the purview of the law, as
administered by Maister HUGH CAULVELEY, does not
appear upon the warrant, nor have I any evidence to
show. It is curious, however, that the document
should have remained hidden in this way for very little
short of three centuries under the floor of an old
half-timbered cottage at Pulford! E. FITZTHOMAS,

Notes.

[1799] A GOOD SAMARITAN DOCTOR.

One would hardly expect to find any notice of a
CHESTER personage in a foreign medical work. I was,
therefore, somewhat surprised to read the following in

Mercurius Compitalitius: or a Guide to the Practical
Physician," written in Latin by Theoph. Bonet, M.D.,
a resident of Geneva, and translated into English in
1684. As the translator made "An addition of many
considerable Cases," it is most probable the following
is due to him, and not to the original author; and his
remark in the opening paragraph points out that he
sided with the Royalist party.

"One Smith, sometime a tanner in *Chester*, was
afterwards a captain of a company of Dragoons,
which he pickt up in haste, to disturb us in our
retreat from the battle of *Worcester*. He was
wounded by some of our soldiers transverse the
right temporal muscle, and was bleeding almost to
death, when I was brought up to his quarters. I
stitcht his wound, taking the artery up with the
lips, and, for want of other remedies, drest it with
a little wheat flower and the white of an egg,
applying over it a compress preat out of vinegar,
with convenient bandage. The third day after I
took off the dressings, and found the lips near
agglutinated. I being then better provided by an
apothecary from *Warrington*, sprinkled the lips of
the wound with *pulu. thuris & sang. draconis*, and
appied a pledgit spread with *liniment arcei*, and
over it *empt. drachalcis*. The second day after I
out the stitches, and applied *Epuloticks*; and after-
wards by a dressing or two more cured him: I am
sure he was well of his wound, before he had re-
cruited his spirits he lost with his blood." (p. 80.)

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Budleigh Salterton, Devon.

[1800] MAN O' MOW.

A portion of a Poem entitled "MAN O' MOW," by
the late GEORGE HEATH, the Staffordshire Moorland
Poet, is so correctly descriptive of the surrounding
country as seen from the top of Mow COP, some eleven
hundred feet above the sea level, that I have copied it
for reproduction in THE SHEAF:—

"On the cragg'd sun-tinted summit

Of a mountain pile I stand,
Hugely grand, and wildly lovely
Visions rise on every hand.

Calms of sky are blue about me,
Windy currents on me beat;

Broken fissures dark with thicket,

Cliffs and gaps are at my feet.

To the Northward sweeps the mountain,

Turret-spurred and larch-embowed—

Heaving, swelling, crouching, curving,

To the awful headland "CLOUD"

Which o'erlooks a widening plain-land,

Flanked with rugged outs and ins,

Whence the damps arise that, floating,

Mist the foreheads of the Mins.

To the South a dusky turret

From the highest apex climbs,

Like a fragment of some giant

Bulwark of the feudal times;

Thence the mountain breaks and straggles
 Roughly to the vale afar,
 In a score of ragged plateaus,
 Girt with gleaming shale and spar.
 And among the knolls and hollows,
 Villas, blocks, and chimneys rise;
 All a-stir with toiling livers,
 All a-pant with enterprise.
 Eastward, where adoring Eos
 Wakens Gaea's Memnon lyre,
 Rise the many-shaped and broken
 Torrent-hills of Staffordshire;
 Crowding upward like the billows
 On a tempest tortured sea;
 'Mongst whose scalloped crests and curvings
 Throbs a monster Industry.
 To the West, a vast campagna,
 Where a bay might once have been,
 Suns its wide, recumbent substance,
 Liv'ried o'er with gold and green;
 Forest-braided, with a prolix
 Growth of huge umbrageous trees,
 Shrinking 'neath a tickling wind-sprite,
 Like the laughter of the seas.
 Sudden gleams of rural mansions,
 Sloping roofs, and glinting walls,
 Many-gabled, many-windowed,
 Pinnacled, patrician halls.
 Where the beeches crowd the thickest
 On the sward; and here and there
 Taper spire, and browning belfry
 Climbing, clasp the upper air;
 Far-seen stacks of grimy chimneys,
 Rolls of smoke, and jets of steam
 Crowd upon my sweeping vision,
 Stnd the current of my dream.
 And afar, where mid the ether
 Glows a white translucid mist,
 Where the scene is distance-softened,
 Summer-shot, and silver-kissed,
 Glamour-wrapt, as wraiths of wonder
 Hover round old fairy tales,
 In a wild serrated sky-line,
 Rise the frontier rocks of WALES;
 And around them, vaguely blended,
 Vapoury hues are grouped and piled;
 And above them, cloud-wreath curtains,
 Protean-gleamed, are looped and coiled.
 Radiant in the vasty vision,
 Sunset-lit, or dawn, or noon;
 Thrilling! 'neath the sleepless vigil
 Of a white September moon."

The "dusky turret" which crowns the "highest apex" of Mow COP is an exceedingly picturesque building, locally called "The Summer House." By many it is erroneously supposed to be the remains of a castle of the olden time, to which, indeed, it bears no slight resemblance, especially when seen from a distance. A view of this building appears in the Second Edition of George Heath's *Poems*, published some time ago.

A short distance from "The Summer House" is a large block of stone, from which the surrounding stone has been cut away. The remaining block bears some resemblance to the head and shoulders of a man, and is known far and wide as "The OLD MAN O' MOW"—hence the title of the poem.

I think I ought to add that the particular portion of the poem I have quoted is not by any means one of the best samples of the Moorland Poet's productions, many of which are exceedingly touching and beautiful. I have, of course, sent the above solely on account of its local interest.

G. H.

Mow Cop, Cheshire.

Queries.

[1801] CHURCH BELLS, CHESHIRE.

The restoration and re-casting of many of the older Bells have caused the mediæval examples to become extremely scarce in this county; in fact it is too much, I am afraid, to hope one single specimen exists. However, I appeal to these columns, as my usual course, for information, trusting my surmises are unfounded, and that many can be recorded with their inscriptions, founders' marks, and legends, if any, connected therewith.

J. H.

[1802] THE WAGGISH WELSH JUDGE.

In the 18th Canto of *Don Juan*, Stanza lxxviii., Lord BYRON treats us to the following:—

"There was Jack Jargon, the gigantic guardsman;
 And General Fireface, famous in the field,
 A great tactician, and no less a swordsman,
 Who ate, last war, more Yankees than he kill'd.
 There was the waggish Welsh Judge, Jeffries Hardaman,
 That when a culprit came for condemnation
 He had his judge's joke for consolation."

Who will resolve me this riddle, by explaining who was this "waggish Welsh Judge," here called *Jeffries Hardaman*, but in another place in the same work given as *George Hardinge*?

M. O. Y.

Replies.

[1808] "RINGILDER."

[No. 425.—December 18, 1878.]

I believe the Query of CAMERO BRITON—"What is a *Ringilder* and what were his duties?" still remains unanswered.

A *Ringilder*, or *Ringildre* as the word is sometimes spelt, was a kind of Bailiff or Serjeant. It is formed

from the Welsh *Rhingill*, which Dr. Owen Pughe, in his *Dictionary*, translates—"a herald; an apparitor; a summoner; a serjeant." W. T. P.

[1804] THE MISE OF CHESHIRE.

[Nos. 498, 667.—Feb. 5, 1879; May 14, 1879.]

The word *Mise* has several significations. Among others it is used to denote a customary payment, which appears to have been peculiar to Wales and Cheshire, and which differed singularly from the feudal *relief*, inasmuch as it was paid to the new *Lord* and not by the new *tenant*.

Mr. Whishaw, in his excellent little *Dictionary*, gives the following account of these *Mises*:—"An honorary gift or customary present from the people of Wales to every new King and Prince of Wales, anciently given in cattle, wine, and corn; afterwards in money. £5,000 or more was denominated a *mise*; so was the tribute or fine of 8,000 marks paid by the inhabitants of the County Palatine of Chester, at the change of every owner of the said earldom, for enjoying their liberties. And at Chester they have a *mise-book*, wherein every town and village in the county is rated what to pay towards the *mise*."

I do not know when the payment of the *Mise of Cheshire* was discontinued. But the *mise-book* spoken of by Mr. Whishaw will probably be found in the Record Office.

Blount, in his *Tenures*, mentions that it was the custom of some manors, within the Honor of Clun, that the tenants should pay *mise money* at the entrance of every new Lord of the Honor. Clun is now in Shropshire, but I believe that it was formerly in the Welsh Marches; and if an enquiry could be made, it is possible that the existence of *mise money* would be discovered in the manors on the borders, as well as Clun, which were transferred from Wales to England when the Welsh Marches were distributed by Henry the Eighth into the present counties. W. T. P.

[1806] CHESTER AND THE TRUE CROSS

[No. 1774.—June 7, 1882.]

"JUVENIA" asks a simple enough question, but one that will not, I fear, admit of so easy an answer; unless, indeed, the relic in question received more care than many others which once belonged to our Abbey of St. WERBURGH.

Whether CHESTER was so fortunate as to possess a portion of the Cross I cannot learn, but it is certain that ACTON Church, near NANTWICH, was presented with such a relic.

WILLIAM MAINWARING, of BADDILEY, making his will in 1394, "bequeathed his body to be buried in Aghton (Acton) Church, and his picture in alabaster to cover his tomb in the said church. He also gave to the said church a part of Christ's Cross, which the wife

of Randle Mainwaring, his half-brother, had in her custody, shut up in wax." It is natural for us to suppose such a bequest would be carried out; and I have no doubt that this relic would in those days, at the celebration of the death of OUR LORD, be used to stimulate the superstitious devotion of the ACTON parishioners.

This WILLIAM MAINWARING was much abroad, in France and presumably Spain, and I fancy he must have become possessed of the fragment when on some such an expedition. His body was laid in the Church as directed by him, under "his picture in alabaster"; which still remains, and bears an interesting inscription and painted faces of men and women, together with much tracery work, and shields containing various coats of arms. But how long the relic in question remained in the custody of the priests of ACTON, or what its further career was, cannot be definitely pointed out: it seems probable, however, that the then flourishing Abbey of COMBERMER which, by the way, owned the advowson of ACTON, would be interested in, and take due care of, the precious gift of William Mainwaring, Lord of Baddiley, whose death occurred "Ueneris p'x. ante festum Pentecoste, Anno Domini MCCC, nonagesimo nono," leaving a sufficient salary for a Chaplain to celebrate mass for his soul in the Chapel of St. Mary there for seven years.

JOHN HEWITT.

[1806] THE DODS OF BROXTON.

[Nos. 1713, 1786.—March 15, June 21, 1882.]

"J." asks, "Where is Belle Hill?" It is "Bell-o'-th'-Hill," and in TUSHINGHAM, the locality of an old Hostelry on the Whitechurch and Chester-road, known by the sign of "The Bell;" though the sign itself has long disappeared, and by slow degrees, like a dissolving view, left only a board behind.

The house was built by EDMUND NEVITT, citizen and grocer, of London, in 1677, as is evidenced by the date and his initials still on the lintel of the front door. It is a picturesque old pile, though a part only of the timber and wattling is left; and this is covered with stucco. A narrow gable in the centre, supported on massive carved pillars, forms a canopy for the entrance; the room above overlooks an open space where three roads meet; and on which, in times gone by, the country pastime of fifty-oufs was wont to be practised, —Tushingham possessing a notable champion of the name of Green, a fine old fellow, whom the writer well remembers.

TREAPWOOD, it may also be parenthetically added, contributed its votaries to the Tushingham sports of those days.

A JOHN DOD and a THOMAS DOD appear as contributors to the re-building of the old Chapel of St. CHAD in 1689. At the time of the suit referred to (1610), the RICHARD GROSVENOR, of Eaton, E.-q., was

Lord of the Manor of TUSHINGHAM, and was the owner of a considerable part of the Township. RANDLE BRETTON, of Cuddington, Esq., was then Lord of the Manor of the adjoining Township of BICKLEY, and owner of the "Willow Farm," bordering on *Willow Moor*. His tenant, Randle Griffith, distrained the cattle (depastured on the moor), of three of the Grosvenor tenants, when a "John Dod, of Tushingham," intervened on the part of "his master, RICHARD GROSVENOR," and replevied. John Dawson, one of the defendants, aged 80 (examined on interrogatories), stated that "the moor contained 80 customary acres," and being asked whether he had not said,—"we have every one a groate yet to spend; and if we have not, our Maister, Maister GROSVENOR hath, and that Willy-Moor is not yet gone; but whether it be right or wrong we will keep it yet,"—denied it.

The real question at issue was, whether the Common was in the Township, and of the Manor, of BICKLEY or TUSHINGHAM? The latter won the day.

Tushingham Hall.

B. LL. V.

AUGUST 2, 1882.

Original Documents.

[1807] CORONATION OF CHARLES THE SECOND.

Among the Deeds and Papers preserved in the muniment chests at EDGE Hall, near Malpas, is a gossiping time-serving Letter, from one LAWRENCE WYNYNGTON, of HERMITAGE, in this county, who seems to have been descended, though I should fear illegitimately, from Thomas Winnington of that place and Northwich, who died in 1590. He had previously infeoffed his near relative, Hugh Winnington, in the lordship of Hermitage; who, though said by some authorities to have died issueless, appears to have left a son, LAWRENCE WYNYNGTON, who inherited Hermitage and other estates, and ultimately sold them about 1657, to one John Leadbester. This Lawrence, I have little doubt, was the writer of the letter forming the subject of this notice.

This interesting, and so far as I know or can gather, unpublished Letter, from the EDGE HALL Collection, runs in these words:—

"Good S'r,

In my Letter sent to you bearing date 7th of this moneth, I imparted to you the reasons that inforst mee to desire yo'r assistance for the Order that makes good my title to the house that widdowe Burton liues in: And in the same letter made my greates acknowledgment for yo'r greates care and paines taken for mee in the same, and hope I haue ginen you that satisfaction in that petticular that

all cloudes of Jealousies are dispersed and gone; for I would have Mr. Harpar knowe that I loue and honour him, and accompt him one of my best friends, and can never forgett those many kindnesses and ciuilities I haue receiued from him.

So soone as I haue dispatched w'th the Quenes Com'issionors, I shall returne my lease to you, and beseech yo'r assistance for my recovery of the Arrears against Widdowe Burton. I desire, S'r, you should knowe that I [have not] heard as yet from Thomas Spanne, a yo'r last letter mentions w'ch beares date the 6th of this moneth.

for matter of newes, there is little but this for trueth; Cardinall Masarin is not like to liue, and the french Agent here expected by the last Post hee should haue heard of his Death: But the last remedy hath bene applied to him, that is, Extreame Vnction: Some say the Lord Abbott Mountacute, brother to the Earle of Manchester, is like to bee the greates instrument of State there, but hose true that is I knowe not.

The CORONATION houlds, and his Ma'tie [CHARLES II.] hath written to the Lords to attend him at the Tower vpon the 22d day of Aprill, the day before the Coronation, and to ride in triumph through the City to Whithall, and the next day to bee Crowned at Westminster.

There is a whisperinge that his Ma'tie should bee already married to Prince Lynes daughter, but most discreete persons beleeeve it not to bee true.

Some make a doubt whether Sir G: BOOTH shall bee made a Lord or noe this Coronation: But S'r Anthony Ashley Cooper, Mr. Denzell Hollis, and S'r Horatio Townshend, are to haue that honour and others.

I beseeche you, S'r, giue my faithfull seruice to good Mr's Harpar, desiringe much to hear from you, and that you would beleeeve these scribbles comes from

Yo'r most obliged and most faithfull Seruant,
LAW: WYNYNGTON.

London, Feb: 19, '60.

I haue not p'd the Post, because

I would haue this come safely
to yo'r hands."

This interesting letter is thus addressed on the back:—

"To my most honoured frend
Mr. Harpar at his house, in
the Bridge gate streete, in
CHESTER."

Mr. HENRY HARPUR, the correspondent of WYNYNGTON, was a lawyer and estate agent living in Lower Bridge Street, Chester, and was Chapter Clerk or Steward to the Dean and Chapter of CHESTER. A Puritan in religious views, he was still a warm royalist; and having managed to hold himself quietly aloof from the opposite party, was enabled to come boldly to the front when CHARLES got his own again, and was therefore much courted by some of those who had compromised themselves under the late regime. LAWRENCE

WYNYNGTON I doubt not was among that number, for there is a grimming tone about the letter which indicates he had got somehow into a cleft stick and looked hopefully towards Mr. Harpur for help, which I do not gather or believe he succeeded in obtaining; for in local history I hear no more of him or his fortunes.

T. HUGHES.

[1808] LEYCESTERS OF WORLESTON, AND
MINSHULL OF HAMPTON.

[*Vide* SHEAF, No. 1156.]

Mr. HELSBY, in the last part of his conscientious and laborious and much enlarged edition of *ORMEROD'S Cheshire*, has added some words respecting the LEYCESTER estate at WORLESTON. [See his *Appendix*, page 905, vol. iii.]

I would add a few words more to explain the descent of that estate.

Dr. ORMEROD, vol. iii, page 357, had said, with his usual accuracy, that it became vested in a family of the name of TAGG. This came about in the following manner:—JOHN MINSHULL, Mayor of Chester 1711, and Sheriff 1702, in whom partly as co-heir and partly as purchaser, all this Leicester estate, as well as the representation of Crews of Pulcroft, had become vested, settled it, his eldest son joining with him, upon his only daughter, MARY MINSHULL, on her marriage with THOMAS TAGG, gentleman, of Chester. The latter is the same "Thomas Tagg, Attorney at Law," mentioned in the third vol. of HELSBY'S *Ormerod* as father of Ann, who married Robert Taylor, of Lymm, Chapter Clerk, where she was buried on the 7th of March, 1792 [*ibid.* p. 505]. I have a note of an additional settlement upon the occasion of Mary Minshull's marriage. It bears date the 28th of December, 1708. Her father, John Minshull, of Chester; Thomas Tagg, of Chester, gentleman; and Richard Walthall, of Wistaston, Esq; and Robert Cox, of Guosol, co Stafford, clerk, were all parties to it, but it only respected personal property.

I annex to this letter a verbatim copy of RICHARD LEYCESTER'S Certificate as to his family; of which the original is bound up with the Harleian MS. cited at the head of this paper:—

"Mrs. JANE LEICESTER dyed the last day of April, 1629, & was buried in St. Michael's Church, Chester. She was dan'r to Will'm Stokes, of Chester, & married Will'm Leicester, of the city of Chester, Ald: & justice of peace, by whom she hath issue:—

RICHARD LEICESTER, somewhere of the age of 44 years, or thereabouts, of [at] the tyme of his mother's death; he married to his first wife Jane, dan' John Fitton, of Chester, Ald: by whom he had issue, Thomas, his son and heire; the sayd Richard married to his 2nd wife Eliz'h, da' to Peter Newall, of Ches, by whom he yet hath no issue.

RANDLE Leicester, 2d son to the defunct, married Martha, da' to Urja Babington, of London, by whom he hath issue Will'm, Randle, Ann, Martha, Mary, Jane, and Elizabeth, all of whom died young but Mary.

WILLIAM Leicester, 3d son to the defunct, dyed without issue.

JANE, eldest da' to defunct, ob. young.

MARGARET [2nd], do., unmarried 1629.

MARY, 3d da', married Hugh Capper, of Chester, by whom she hath issue.

ANNE, 4th da.' ob. young.

ELIZABETH, youngest da', married Randle Mynsule of Hampton, & hath issue.

This Certificate was taken at CHESTER, upon 6 May, 1629, by RANDLE HOLME, of the city of Chester, deputy for the office of arms, & testified under the hand of Mr. Richard Leicester, son & heir to the defunct.

" RICHARD LEICESTER."

Stafford.

T. J. M.

Notes.

[1809] RAVENSCROFT—WILBRAHAM.

To my mind it is quite in accordance with the object of these columns that the following Epitaphs should appear therein, and I have therefore ventured to send them for that purpose.

The RAVENSCROFT family, as has been shown recently in *THE SHEAF*, has been connected by marriage with many of the principal houses on both sides of the border, and must have contributed much of interest to them historically in more ways than one. The WILBRAHAM family settled at DORFOLD in 1606, when Roger Wilbraham purchased the estate from the Bromleys. This Roger passed the estate to RALPH WILBRAHAM, his younger brother, by whom the present Hall was built and completed in 1616.

His (Ralph's) portrait hangs among the family pictures at DORFOLD Hall, and bears the following inscription on the back:—

"RANDULPHUS WILBRA'AM de Dorfold, Arm'r
(sui temporis oraculum Filius natu minimus
RICHARDI WILBRA'AM de Vico-Malbancoc, Gen.
(*Cornelius Janssen pinxit.*)"

On the picture:—

"An'o Dom' 1624, Æt' sue 66."

The Monuments are placed on the walls of a chapel or chantry west of the south porch, and are somewhat neglected, but do not bear the marks of any wilful damage. The oldest contains the following:—

"To the deare memory of MARY WILBRAHAM,
wife of ROGER WILBRAHAM, of DERFOULD, Esq.,

daughter to THOMAS RAVENSCROFT, of Bretton, in Flintshire, Esq., who, through the pangs of child-bed, passed to eternal rest, ult'o April., anno D'm' 1632, stat. sue 37.

Here lyes the earthy part of her whose name Gives honour to this stone; who knew no flame But that of zeale, and conjugale pure love; Ambitious of no place but Heav'n above. More paynes to put on Christ, than clothes she tooke, The laws her glass, where she loved most to look. Meek she was, yet her vertues caused a strife, Whether she was Christian more rare, or wife: A better daughter or a mother; more Bounteous to friends, or kinder to the poor: During this strife, ere it was thoroughly tried Whilst grace grew, nature weaken'd, and she died."

I suppose it is all but impossible to ascertain who composed the above verses, but they are very much in character with those of the 17th century, when so many monuments were erected by the gentry, only to be, as it turned out, destroyed or mutilated by the soldiers during the Civil War.

That of her daughter is none the less fulsome in character, and seems probably the work of the same person who composed her mother's, whose death had left her child a "virgin" at the early age of eleven years!

"To the memory of ELIZABETH, daughter of ROG: WILBRAHAM, of DREFOLD, Esq., by MARY his wife, daughter of THOMAS RAVENSCROFT, of Bretton, Esq., She dyed Decemb. ye 6th, anno D'm. 1645, stat. sue 24.

Here lyes her body—hould! some one replies, 'Tis not her body, 'tis the marble lies; For her fayre clay, ere death could reach her bed, Sly sickness (to cheat them) thence ravished, And in its roome conveyed a skelleton, Which scarce her looking-glass or friends could owne; A skelleton so bare, that as she lay, She seemed a soule abstracted from its claye. Thus lightened, she could aot, and never faint, But moved more like an Angell than a Seynt; Whilst, through these weather-beat thin walls of skin, Each looker on might see what dwelt within: Sound judgement, joy'n'd to active piety, Wit, sweetness, patience, and humility. A virgin, too!—save that, just such another In all perfections as her neighbour mother."

This Epitaph well illustrates the rapidly growing taste for bombast and sometimes impious wit that was allowed to be displayed in our churches, when, I presume it was not held to be necessary to apply to any higher power than the churchwardens to authorise their erection. There seem to be several unhappy "hits" at common sense, when describing her as "more like an angel than a seynt;" the last two lines, also, seem somewhat peculiar in expression!

The other monument is much later, and is not so ornamental as the preceding ones:—

"MS. spe resurgendi hic jacet Francisca, filia natu minima Thomas Ravenscrofte, de Bretton, in agro Flint. armig. uxor que Randolphi Wilbraham de Dorfold, in com. Cestrie armig., cui peperit 17 liberos, reliquit 13, viz., filios 9, filias 4, qui gravi et diuturno morbo confecta firma in Christo fide, et inviata animi patientia, in oculum rediit cum vixisset annos 49.

obiit { die Septembris 5,
anno Salutis, 1706.

JOHN HEWITT.

Queries.

[1810] HAWARDEN WILLS OFFICE.

The church, or rather rectory, of HAWARDEN is understood to be what is ecclesiastically called a "peculiar," and has for centuries past enjoyed the right both of proving wills and of trying causes relating to church affairs within certain defined limits, independent of the diocesan courts of CHESTER and ST. ASAPH. When was this privilege conferred upon HAWARDEN? Is the Rector *ex-officio* judge of the court? Are the records of it available, and where are they preserved?

H. S. A.

[1811] FRODSHAM WARTHES.

Is there any place at Frodsham called the "Warthes?" I think it must be somewhere in the vicinity of the river Weaver, or perhaps the Mersey; for in the memorandum I have seen, mention is made of a fishery near the spot.

A WOODMAN.

Replies.

[1812] A CHESHIRE 17TH CENTURY GIPSY.

[No. 1670, 1690, 1697, 1794.—Jan. 18, Feb. 15, July 5, 1882.]

Thanks to the courtesy of the clergy in the neighbourhood of KING'S MARSH, I am enabled to so far supplement my recent "Note" on the above subject as to say that the Parish Books of Farndon, Shocklach, and Aldford contain no reference whatever to the Gipsy DURBARE or his family. Perhaps, by the way, he was buried within the limits of the old "sanctuary," and in that case without any recognised religious ceremony. His widow, moreover, seems to have speedily struck her tent, and departed the scene, returning there is little doubt to the wandering freedom in which she had been originally brought up.

This seems the fitting place to locally embalm a very interesting communication made to *Notes and Queries* on May 29, 1880, by our too occasional correspondent Mr. J. P. EARWAKER. He says:—

"The churchyard of Little Budworth, in Cheshire, contained in 1757 the grave of one who in his day and generation was 'King of the Gipsies.' This person, Henry Louett, died on January 27, 1744-5, at the age of eighty five, as shown by the following inscription on his tombstone, copied in 1757 by the celebrated antiquary Cole, in one of his visits to Cheshire. He thus describes it:—

'Budworth Parva. On the N. side of the Church Yard, by the Rails of it opposite the Side of the Chancel, lies a large Stone upon the Ground, with the following inscription:—

'Here lies in Hopes of a joyfull Resurrection the Body of Henry Louett. He departed this Life the 27 Day of January, 1744, aged 85 years. He died a Protestant.'

The oddity of the last Line excited my curiosity to enquire who this good Protestant might be, who thus professed his Belief on his Tombstone; and Mr. Tonman (the curate) told me he was the King of the Gypsies: that he died at a place called Beggars Bank in this Neighbourhood, a famous Rendezvous for this Sort of People; that his Companions gave him, the Curate, at his Funeral, one of the most ample offerings he had met with; and that they still came to his grave to pray once a year: this looks as if the Subjects were Papists, tho' the King died a Protestant: we want some of their own Historians to clear up this important Part of their Egyptian History."

Cole, continues Mr. EARWAKER, has added the following note to this entry, which serves to carry on the history of the Lovett family for another generation or two:—

"This Day I had at my Door, being Blecheley East, Monday, Sept. 15, 1766, a grandson of this HENRY LOVETT, as he called him, with a Wife and 7 Children, all as black as Egyptians, but clean-limbed, well-made People, who lived as they said, at Risborough in Bucks, and were Fiddlers."

Mr. EARWAKER adds:—In the old accounts of the Corporation of MACCLESFIELD (now lost) was an entry, under the year 1656, recording a payment "for goeing with tenn Egipsians to the higher end of Sutton," a neighbouring village.

The Curate who recorded the burial at LITTLE BUDWORTH of HENRY LOVETT, the "Gipsy King," as above stated, was himself buried in CHESTER CATHEDRAL; where the following inscription in fragmentary condition still remained in the floor of the north aisle of the Choir in 1875:—

"Underneath
are deposited the Remains of
the Revd. THOMAS TONMAN, M.A.,
who departed this Life, the
8th of March, 1783, Aged 64.

Also of DOBOTHY his Belict
Daughter of

All the latter portion of the inscription had been broken away through the shelling of the stone, and removed, prior to 1875.

T. HUGHES.

[1818] EARLY EMIGRANTS TO AMERICA.

[No. 1,778.—June 7th, 1883.]

In reply to Mr. F. ADAMS's query as to the family of ADAMS, there was a family of this name well-known in CHESTER at the commencement and during the middle of the last century.

The family history is that they originally came to CHESTER from CORK, and were connected with Edmund Spenser, the poet; but although I have asked information in THE SHEAF I have not been favoured with any as to the time when, or who were the earlier members of, the family first settled in CHESTER.

The earliest that I was able to discover was ROGER ADAMS, whose tomb I deciphered in St. John's Churchyard some years ago, and on which it is stated that he "departed this life June 13th, 1741, aged 80 years." He was the proprietor and printer of the *Chester Courant*. His son JOHN succeeded him; his tomb, in the same churchyard, stating that he "departed this life September 2nd, 1757." He was succeeded in the proprietorship of the *Courant* by his widow, Elizabeth: on her death the *Courant* became the property of their only daughter, Elizabeth, who married and left issue, the only existing family that I can trace as descended from the above ROGER ADAMS,—his family, in the male line, being now, I believe, extinct; though JOHN ADAMS had an only son, ORION ADAMS, who was the publisher of *Orion Adams's Weekly Journal* in Manchester. He left a son, James Orion Adams, who died, I believe without issue, in Ireland.

A search in the Registry of St. John's, Chester, might give some information as to the parentage of Roger Adams, and show if he was connected with the family enquired after.

Dublin.

W. MONK GIBBON.

AUGUST 16, 1882.

Original Documents.

[1814] THE BEESTONS OF BEESTON.

This ancient Cheshire family, descending in the female line from an inter-marriage with their neighbours the BUNBRIES,—the second son of whom thereupon took the name of BEESTON, along with the estates of Margery Beeston the heiress,—continued

meane lords of Beeston, Tiverton, and other estates, until well into the sixteenth century.

Sir GEORGE BEESTON, of Beeston, Kt., was a hero of prowess and renown far beyond the limit of his shire, and, as his elegant tomb in BUNBURY Church expresses it, "was nourished and inured in the arts of war from his boyhood, under the invincible king HENRY VIII." He won great distinction at the siege of Boulogne, and in the battle of Musselborough, under that king and in the reigns of his daughters, MARY and ELIZABETH. He was knighted in 1588 by Queen Elizabeth, in reward for his conspicuous bravery against the SPANISH ARMADA, when, being at the time almost a nonagenarian, he gallantly assisted in the destruction of that fleet of fleets. For thirteen years longer he bore those knightly honours on his ancient brow, and dying at last at the age of 102, was buried at BUNBURY, on Oct. 13, 1601, leaving a brother HUGH Beeston, not many years his junior; and a son and heir, Sir HUGH BEESTON, also of Beeston, Receiver General for the Crown in Cheshire and North Wales, who was buried in his father's and grandfather's grave at Bunbury, in February, 1626, himself aged 81, his son, Sir George Beeston having predeceased him, issueless, in 1611.

HUGH BEESTON, brother of the redoubtable Sir GEORGE, of Armada fame, seems not to have left issue by Margaret Aston, his wife: I find too, that whereas she was buried at Tarporley on the 21st January, 1594, he continued for 14 years her widower, and was finally interred at Bunbury with his ancestors, on the 25th of May, 1608

This brings me to the occasion for this article, viz.: the Order of Proceedings at his Burial, which remains upon record in the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum, in the following terms:—

"The order of the funerall of Hugh beeston of beeston in the County of Chester, Esqr., buried at bunbury in may 1608 :—

first tow [two] yeomen in black cotes, wth staves black, for conductors for the poore
then the poore 2 & 2 wth pencells in their hands
then 2 yeomen more wth black staves
then the yeomen in cotes 2 & 2
the penon, Carried by Mr. Wich in a Blocke [black] cloak

then the gent' and Esqrs. in black clokes 2 & 2
the helme and crest borne by Mr. peter breasey
the cote of Armes borne by Mr. Whitmore

the preacher
the Corpes
the head mourner alone
assistants 2, vi'll't

Mr. Wilbram Mr. Egerton
ethers of blood in black

Kts, Esqrs., & ge't', & others not in black."

HUGH BEESTON left, it would appear, no Will; but find by the "Index of Wills and Inventories pre-

served in the Probate Court at Chester" (published by the RECORD SOCIETY), that his representatives filed an Inventory of his goods in 1608, amending or extending it by another similar document in 1610. It is very likely he died without issue.

There is a good deal of ambiguity about the Hugh Beeston who was second son of the valiant Sir George, and another Hugh Beeston living at the same period with the one we are now dealing with; and this ambiguity the funeral certificate of Sir George (printed in Mr. J. Paul Rylands' invaluable volume of "Cheshire Funeral Certificates," Record Society) does not assist very materially to set right.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1815] FAMILIES OF PARRY, BULKELEY, PRICE, AND PULESTON.

Some account of these families, so long connected with Cheshire and Wales, may, from an Irish point of view, prove interesting to the readers of THE SHEAF.

In the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries, several of them settled in Ireland, and obtained promotion in the Church, and under the Government there. LAUNCELOT BULKELEY, youngest son of Sir Richard Bulkeley, of Beaumari-, in 1619, succeeded Archbishop of Dublin. Three of the PARRYS were Bishops during this century.

Many other Chester and Welsh men filled high offices in the Church,—to instance a few—Thomas Jones, Archbishop of Dublin; William Golbourn, a native of Chester, Bishop of Kildare; Thomas Price, from Wales, succeeded Golbourn; William Moreton, born in Chester, succeeded Price. The offices of Deans, Archdeacons, Prebendaries, and Canons, were frequently filled by natives of Chester and Wales.

There were two Parish Churches in Dublin, namely, St. WERBURGH's, and St. Audeon's, or St. Owen's, that were almost exclusively considered as the Churches of the CESTRIANS, and those hailing from the Principality; and there their marriages, baptisms, and funeral rites were respectively celebrated.

These observations may serve as an introduction to a brief antiquarian and historical sketch of the families named at the head of this paper. The Wills of many of them were proved in Dublin, and the originals remain in the Office of the Public Records for Ireland; other acts relating to them are in the "Record Office," in the Round Tower at the Castle of Dublin, and in the Office for the Registry of Deeds in Ireland. From these sources, and from some original documents and copies not on official record, the following facts have been abstracted:—

REIS PARRY, whose Christian name is spelled variously in the records, Reis, Rhys, or Rhyse, came to Ireland with Sir Nicholas Bagnall, Knight Marshall of Queen Elizabeth's troops in Ireland, October 11th, 1574. Bagnall is described as having his house in Newry, and lending the same to the Earl of Essex. PARRY appears to have been in Bagnall's suite, but filling what office does not appear. He is described as a merchant in Newry, which town was incorporated by James I.; and on the 12th November, 1612, "Reis Parry" was appointed one of the burgesses thereof.

He was married to Francis Price, daughter of John Price (ancestor of the Prices of Bryn-y-pys), either a barrister or connected with the Law Courts of the city of Dublin, and doubtless a native of Wales. Reis Parry died in Newry on the 22nd March, 1617, having made his will two days previously, and which was proved in the Prerogative Court at Dublin on May 26th, 1618.

This will appears to have been in his own handwriting, and bears his signature thus—"Reis Parrie."

He leaves the greater part of his property to his son "Edward Parrie;" mentions his wife, "Frances Parrie;" his daughter, "Maydelyn Parrie," and his brother, "John Parrie." It would appear that his only children were Edward and Maydelyn. It is believed that he left very considerable property, chiefly in land, in the county of Down.

Edward Parry, his son, graduated B.A. in Trinity College, Dublin, at Easter, 1620; obtained his master's degree 1623, and a fellowship in 1624. It is conjectured that he accepted one of the college livings in the co. Down, resigning his fellowship. At Easter, 1630, he graduated B.D. in the same University, and in 1636 was collated Prebendary of Stragoniel in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin; resigning the prebendship of one portion of Tipperkevin in the same cathedral, and to which he had been collated in 1627. Subsequently he graduated D.D., and in 1638 was promoted to the Archdeaconry of Glendalough, and afterwards to the Deanery of Lismore; and was appointed treasurer of Christ's Church, Dublin.

28th March, 1647, he was, in Christ's Church Cathedral, consecrated Bishop of Kildare, holding his archdeaconry and treasurer-ship in commendam.

In the year 1627, EDWARD PARRY had taken up his residence in Chichester House, afterwards called the Parliament House, now the Bank of Ireland, in College Green, Dublin; and as this house forms a most interesting item in the history of the families of PARRY and PRICE, and was till very lately owned by the first Sir RICHARD PULESTON, a short account of it may not be out of place.

In 1602 the city granted a plot of ground to Sir George Caryl, or Carewe, knight, Treasurer at War for Ireland, to build a hospital for poor, sick, and maimed soldiers, &c. The hospital was built at a cost of £4000: but afterwards, owing to the vicinity of the

River Liffey having been considered unsuitable, was sold by Sir George Caryl to Sir Thomas Ridgway, by whom it was re-sold to Sir Arthur Basset: during the period of these sales it was called Caryl's Hospital. In 1611 Sir Arthur Chichester purchased it from Basset, when it received the name of Chichester House (this name appears in several State Papers and Despatches in the year 1613). On Sir Arthur Chichester's death, without issue, in the year 1625, the house passed to his brother, Sir Edward Chichester, the ancestor of the Donegal family, who in 1626 sold it to Sir Samuel Smyth, Knight, who leased it to the Rev. EDWARD PARRY, in whose son, Dr. JOHN PARRY, the fee simple subsequently became vested.

Dr. Edward Parry was married to . . . Price, a daughter of another John Price, of whom I have no further trace. Her sister Jane was married to the Rev. John Davis, Rector of Llany, in Wales. This Jane subsequently married Sir EDWARD WYNN, Bart., of Llanymon, whose name is mentioned in some of the records in connection with the Parry estates.

Dr. EDWARD PARRY had two sons, John and Benjamin, and two daughters, Mary and Elinor. Elinor married Richard Hawkshaw, of the Parish of St. Michael's, Dublin, Barrister-at-Law, and MARY married ROBERT BULKELEY, of Granagh, in the Isle of Anglesey, a nephew or very near relative of Archbishop Launcelot Bulkeley.

20th July, 1650, Dr. Edward Parry died of the plague (which then raged in Dublin), at "his house," Chichester House, and was interred in a niche in St. Audeon's Church. His will bears date the 17th July, 1650, and was proved in the Prerogative Court, Dublin. It directs "my body to be interred in St. Audeon's Church neere the doore, with my face to the East, where also I desire the body of my deare wife may be translated, and laid by my side, if it may be." He gives to his "eldest daughter, Mary Parry, alias Bulkeley, a little silver watch, and her mother's deer-head ring." To his daughter "Eleynor Parry" other ornaments that belonged to her mother; to his sister "Madeline" Evans, five pounds; and to others legacies out of fifty pounds due to him by William Usher; to his "cozen, Robert Parry," his lexicon and other books; to his "loving cozen, Richard Parry," a gold ring; to his "cozen Mary Parry," wife of Richard, a money legacy; and appoints his "cozen, Robert Parry," "overseer" of his will.

He was the author of "*David Restored*, or an antidote against the prosperity of the wicked, and afflictions of the just. Oxon, 1660. 8vo."

Ware, in his history of the Bishop, says that "He was a Prelate of a very acute genius and honest disposition."

For some time previous to his death he held the office of Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dublin.

(To be continued.)

Dublin, 14th June, 1882 W. MONK GIBBON.

Queries.

[1816] ST. WERBURGH.

Her history is well known to all readers of the Church History of CHESTER, but I am anxious to know how many churches in the diocese, and elsewhere, are dedicated to her? ST. CHAD and ST. ALBAN have been incidentally discussed, and surely our patron saint should not be neglected in a publication like this, dedicated to the historic bygones of the County Palatine?

Chester.

J. H.

[1817] MASONRY IN THE 22ND REGIMENT.

Chambers' Journal for July, 1882, contains at p. 400, the following paragraph relating to the 22nd (CHESHIRE) Regiment, and to the boasted invasion of the "secret" in the Masonic Lodge attached thereto by the daring craft and curiosity of a woman! *Chambers* says:—

"Freemasons in the year 1770 must have been rather surprised and amused to read the following announcement in the new *Newcastle Courant* of January 4th of that year:—

This is to acquaint the public, That on Monday the first instant, being the Lodge (or monthly meeting) Night of the Free and Accepted Masons of the 22nd Regiment, held at the *Crown* near Newgate (Newcastle), Mrs. Bell, the landlady of the house, broke open a door (with a poker) that had not been opened for some time past; by which means she got into an adjacent room, made two holes through the wall and, by that stratagem, discovered the secrets of Freemasonry; and she, knowing herself to be the first woman in the world that ever found out the secret, is willing to make it known to all her sex. So any lady who is desirous of learning the secrets of Freemasonry, by applying to that well-learned woman (Mrs. Bell, that lived fifteen years in and about Newgate), may be instructed in the secrets of Masonry.

It would be interesting to know (continues *Chambers*), how many pupils Mrs. Bell obtained, and why she appealed to her own sex in particular; seeing that there are almost as many men as women who would be curious enough at any time to learn the secrets of Masonry without being initiated into the Order."

I also, in common with *Chambers* and no doubt many of your readers, would be glad to learn something more of this vaunted Masonic discovery; and it might be useful to record at the same time whether the 22nd or CHESHIRE Regiment still possesses an independent Lodge officially recognised by the authorities of the Order?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

Replies.

[1818] TERESIA CONSTANTIA PHILLIPS.

[No. 1769.—June 7, 1882.]

Since sending you my short account of this remarkable Chester-born woman, a friend has furnished me with two small things of hers, viz., "The Promised Justification in Number IV., Vol. 2, of the Apology," published in London, 1748; and "A Letter Humbly addressed to the Right Honourable the Earl of Chesterfield, by Mrs Teresia Constantia Mulman," London, 1750. I see that it is necessary to read these particulars side by side with her book, already alluded to, before we can fully appreciate the story of her life. She had married one Henry Mulman, whose conduct to her was most cruel and perfidious; and probably caused her to wander away from the paths of virtue, and to sacrifice herself to men who pretended at least to pity her wrongs, and to shelter her from the persecution of her depraved and racially husband. The letter to Lord Chesterfield is a very clever production, and I imagine was published with his consent.

VAUXHALL.

[1819] LYCIDAS.

[Nos. 1651, 1736.—June 1, 1881; April 12, 1882.]

Mr. DAVIES COOKE is right in believing that "Lycidas" commemorates a member of his mother's family.

In criticising MILTON, Dr. Johnson briefly describes "Lycidas" as "an elegy written in 1637, on the death of Mr. King, the son of Sir John King, Secretary for Ireland in the time of Elisabeth, James, and Charles." But a longer history of the Poem, which I copy from Dr. Hawkins's edition of Milton's *Poetical Works*, may interest some readers of THE SHEAF.

"This poem was made upon the unfortunate and untimely death of Mr. EDWARD KING, son of Sir John King, Secretary for Ireland, a fellow-collegian and intimate friend of our author, who, as he was going to visit his relations in Ireland, was drowned on the 10th of August, 1637, and in the 25th year of his age. The year following, 1638, a small volume of poems, Greek, Latin, and English, was printed at Cambridge in honour of his memory, and before them was prefixed the following account of the deceased:—

'P. M. S. Edvardus King, f. Joannis (equitis aurati qui S.S.S. R.R.R. Elisabethæ, Jacobo, Carolo, pro regno Hiberniæ a secretis) col. Christi in Academia Cant. socius, pietatis atque eruditionis conscientia et fama felix, in quo nihil immaturum præter statum; dum Hiberniam cogitat, tractus desiderio suorum, patriam, agnatos et amicos, præ caeteris fratrem, Dominum Robertum King (equitem auratum, virum ornatissimum) sorores (feminas lectissimas) Annam, Dom. G. Canfield, Baronis de

Charlemont; Margaretam, D. G. Leder, Summi
Hibernici Justitiam, unum; venerandum Franculum,
Edvardum King, Episcopum Elphinensem (a quo
sacro fonte susceptus) reverendissimum et doctis-
simum virum Gulielmum Chappel, Decanum, ecclesie
Caswellianse, et collegii Sanctis Trinitatis apud
Dablinensem prepositum (cujus in Academia auditor
et alumnus fuerat) invicem; hanc procul a littore
Britannico, navi in scopulum alliam, et rimis et ieta
fatiscente, dum alii vestros vites mortalis frustra
satagunt, immortalitem anhelant, in gremio
provolutus oraneque, una cum navigio ab aquis
absorptus, animam deo reddidit IIII, Ksl. Sextilis,
anno Salutis MDC, XXXVII statis XXV.

The last poem in the collection was this of MILTON,
which by his own manuscript appears to have been
written in November, 1637, when he was almost 29
years old."

I will only add to this account of *Lycidas*, that Sir
Robert King, the distinguished brother of Milton's
"learned friend," was a direct ancestor of Edward, the
first Earl of Kingston, whose grandson, the third Earl,
was father of Lady Helena Davies-Cooke.

Grosford.

W. T. P.

[1820] CHESHIRE CHRONOGRAMS.

[Nos. 451, 555.—January 1, March 5, 1879.]

A large and important work on CHRONOGRAMS, com-
piled by Mr. J. Hilton, has just been issued from the
press. It is the first time that a general collection of
these singular compositions has been published, and the
work of collecting, classifying, and describing them
must have been very great, as the volume contains
upwards of 5,000 examples. Amongst the number four
relate to CHESHIRE, and are well worth recording here.
One of the others (p. 30) formerly appeared as an
inscription on a sundial at Nantwich Church, and has
already been noted in THE SHEAF. (Vol. I., p. 179.)
The remaining three are to be found at pp. 26, 28, and
29 of the work, and are taken from "A very rare tract
of 12 pages, 4to.,—*Chronometra memorabilium verum*,
etc., relating to the Civil Wars in England, printed at
Cambridge, 1646." I give them here at length:—

"On the battle of Nantwich, in Cheshire, where
the Royalists were defeated on 25th February,—
VICeno aC qVinto febrVVes respLenDVit Igne,
regla CLaDe Cohors rVIt In Cestrensi bVs agrIs.

==1644.

i.e., The twenty-fifth sun of February arose when
the forces of the King are defeated in the plains of
Cheshire."

"On the slaughter inflicted on the royal forces in
Cheshire on 24th September:—

soLe qVater seno VIIbris, CLaDe CrVentâ,
regla VICta Cohors IntensIs eXCIDit aValIs.

==1645.

i.e., On the four times sixth day of September, in a
bloody defeat, the royal forces, being conquered,
desisted from their excessive daring."

"On the surrender of Chester on certain condi-
tions:—

fVLget VI è CnLo termo febrVarIVs arCV,
obalDione graVI aC DIVIVraâ castrIs CapIt.

==1646.

i.e., When the third day of February shone in the
sky, Chester was taken after a stubborn and con-
tinuous siege."

T. N. BRUNSFIELD, M.D.

Badleigh-Salterton, Devon.

[The "capital" letters in each of these three Latin
verses, when properly arranged in Roman numerals,
give the dates intended by the several authors.

EDITOR.]

AUGUST 30, 1882.

Original Documents.

[1821] IMMORAL LIVERS IN CHESHIRE IN 1448.

Local history is not too silent as to the grievous
immorality of Cheshire society in former times; and
the old chroniclers seem to have felt peculiar pleasure
in setting down the peccadilloes of the "upper ten,"
whenever the opportunity arose for doing so. Sometimes
it was the clergy who were charged with this moral taint,
—the monks of ST. WERBURGH'S ABBEY at CHESTER,
and some even of the abbots themselves, being openly
declared to be no better than they should be. This,
it should be stated by their contemporaries, was
before the REFORMATION; and there are those who
say that things have been altogether different and
less culpable since then,—which is at least a pleasant
truth to learn by such as study, and mayhap now and
again criticize the fashions, follies, or vices of the day.

The evil appears to have reached a climax towards the
middle of the 15th century, when WILLIAM, Bishop of
COVENTRY AND LICHFIELD opened a crusade against
the aristocratic misdoers in the CHESHIRE division of
his great diocese. He employed all the ordinary
powers of the church in his endeavour to purge the
Cheshire laity from the reproach under which they had
fallen; but it was of no avail that he preached at them,
and levelled against them the anathemas of the church.
He cited them to appear in his Ecclesiastical Court to
answer for their sins, but they defied him and appeared
not; and he was at length constrained to petition the
King, HENRY VI., to come to his help, and to make the
orders of the State felt and obeyed, where the episcopal
ones had so utterly failed.

Here is the text of the Petition his lordship addressed
to the King on the 2nd of July, in the 27th year of his
reign (1448):—

"Petition 2 July, 27 Hen. VI., 1448, of W'm Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield.

"To the King our Soverayn Lord.

Besechith mekely your Preat and Oratour, William, B'p of Coventr' & Lich.: that where there ben within the Counte of Chestre & in the Citte of Chestre mony advowares, fornicatours & other mysdoers ayenes the lawe of god; the w'ch mysdoers the Officers of your sayd besecher dar not, ne may not correcte ne amend, within ye seyde Counte & Citte, some for cause of might of himself, & some for cause of mayntenance that they have of mighty men within the seyde Counte; that it please unto your highnesse to graunt your severall Lettres patentis undre your grete Seal of england & your Seall of Chestre unto your seyde besecher, that your s'd besecher & his Officers, during the lyfe of your said besecher, may cite & calle & make to be cited & called out of ye seyde Shire and Cite into any other places of his diocise all man' of p'sones resydent & to be resydent within the s'd Shyre or Cite, in all maner of causes & matter touchyng & concernyng the Lawe of holy Chirche, any Writte or Commaundement to your seyde besecher, or any of his Officers from you afore this time directed, or hereafter to be directed, to the contrarie hereof notwithstanding. And he shall pray god for you.

Anno 27' Hen : 6, July 2."

The foregoing Petition is copied from the M.S. Transcript of it preserved in the Baker MSS., vol. 45, p. 6, in the University Library, Cambridge, and permission to make the copy was obligingly given me a year ago by the courteous librarian, Henry Bradshaw, Esq., M.A.

It seems pretty clear to me that the offenders had been sheltering themselves from the Bishop's anger and correction, on the plea that, though in his lordship's diocese and under his episcopal jurisdiction, they were at the same time under the superior control of the EARLDOM OF CHESTER, and entitled to its princely protection. Whether the Bishop or the offenders won the day, evidence is not forthcoming to show.

G. T.

Notes.

[1822] ROMAN INSCRIPTION IN CHESTER CATHEDRAL.

In the Chapter House of Chester Cathedral there is a red sandstone tablet, 2ft. by 8ft., found on the site of the present Deanery, bearing this inscription :—

"COH . C . OCRATI
MAXIMINI . MP."

The Roman legionaries in the colonies were, in time of peace, employed in making and repairing public roads, a certain space being marked off to be performed

by each cohort, and again sub-divided among the centuries of which the cohort consisted.

Upon completing their task each century marked its boundary by a stone, inscribed with the title of the cohort, the name of their centurion, and the extent of road by them made or repaired. These were termed *centurial* inscriptions. The above may, with this introduction, be read :—

"*Cohortis Primæ Centuria Ocratii Maximini Mille Passus.*"

["The century of the first cohort commanded by Ocratius Maximinus performed 1,000 paces (a Roman mile) of this road."]

FRED. J. FREEMAN.

Garston, Liverpool.

[1823] MASON'S MARKS.

The master masons of the middle ages were, I believe, not only the actual builders, but often also the designers or architects of the structures,—whether abbeys, churches, castles, or the old mansions, which survive so many of them as beauty-spots about our land. These men were in fact the forerunners, the creators I should say, of those secret guilds, the members of which are known to us in more modern times as FREE-MASONS; and their occult symbols may even in our day be traced, just as they left them indeed, on the walls and piers of some of our older Cheshire churches. Notably is this the case at ST. JOHN'S and at ST. WERBURGH'S, the two sacred buildings in CHESTER that hold, or have once held, the rank of a Cathedral.

Many years ago now (perhaps a score), I accompanied an American "brother" on a Mason's-mark-hunting expedition in our old city; and mightily, I remember, he was charmed when I pointed out to him several examples then as still actually remaining *in situ*, of what he had gleaned only vague ideas of from old books dealing with his favourite "craft." He wrote home, as I also remember, learned articles on this subject, and on his personal experiences "in lodge" at Chester and elsewhere; which articles were printed at the time in some Masonic newspaper in the United States, and which I myself, though not of the Order, was permitted through his courtesy to read.

Of course, I do not claim or even suppose that the Masons were the *only* architects of ancient times; for it is well enough known that the monks, both secular and religious, are entitled to take their share of the honour of having designed the countless churches that have for centuries glorified so many an English landscape.

T. HUGHES.

[1824] THE ECCLESTON "BOAT."

Although manners, customs, and, in some cases, the very *names* of places have entirely changed since the Conqueror's time, yet, withal, ECCLESTON can boast of

having had her "boat" for above 800 years, for in the DOMESDAY SURVEY it says:—

"Gislebertus de Venables, holds Ecclestone under Earl Hugh. Edwin (no doubt Earl Edwin, the Saxon, though the word "oom" in this instance has been inadvertently omitted) did hold it. He was a free man. There 5 hides (of land) paid geld (tax). The land (in the whole) is 6 carucates. In demeane there is one (carucate). (There are) 2 Servi, 4 Villani, (and) 1 Borderer with one carucate. There is a boat there, and a fishing net, *navis (et) rete*. (There is) $\frac{1}{2}$ an acre of pasture, &c."

Translators have rendered *dimid*, as "half," hence I have followed their example; nevertheless I think "part" is better, as half is certainly not suitable in all cases.

Great Saughall.

W. H. BRADFORD.

[1825] THE SMITHS OF OLDEHAUGH, CHESHIRE.

Let it be registered in THE SHEAF that a pedigree of this old county family of ysomen, claiming to branch out from the more ancient and knightly race of the SMITHS of Cuerdley, co. Lancaster, was deduced in 1605 out of their existing evidences by WILLIAM SMITH, *Rougedragon*, and by him "Justified to be true." On the 30th November in that year the pedigree passed under the official eye of "Will'm Segar, Garter Princippall King of Armes; Will'm Camden, Clarenceux King of Armes; Ri. St. George, Norroy Kinge of Armes," who subscribed their names to the pedigree and "confirmed the Armes, the 30th of November, Anno D'ni 1605."

This carefully drawn and handsomely emblazoned document, now the property of Mr. G. H. Birch, Hon. Secy. of the "London and Middlesex Archaeological Society," was published in photo-lithography in 1879; and has been reprinted, with an introduction, by our valued fellow-worker Mr. J. PAUL RYLANDS, F.S.A., of Thelwall, in *The Genealogist* for July, 1882.

T. G.

[1826] THE GROVES STEPS, CHESTER.

The Corporation have recently been spending a large sum in the drainage of VICARS' LANE and St. JOHN'S CHURCHYARD, as well as in reconstructing the bold flight of STEPS leading down to the Groves, River Dee, and Queen's Park. The Steps in question are now a public highway, and the City Council, being literally and legally the owners, are responsible for their maintenance. But there was a time, and that not so long ago, when traffic that way was confined to the RECORDER's and one or two other private houses on the DEE-SIDE; and in those days the parishioners of St. John's claimed and were accorded the sole ownership of the Steps as well as of the right of way.

Eighty years or so ago, the primitive steps that then sufficed for the local need had got into disorder, and even ruin, and the Vestry of St. John's felt compelled

to take the matter in hand. Mr. Thomas Kelly, the mason, whose yard was at the north-east corner of Saller-street, was called in and entrusted with the work, as appears by the following memorandum found some years ago in the parish chest:—

"1808, Nov. 35. Agreed with Kelly the Mason to do the steps going to Mr. Hill in the Groves, in workmanlike manner, for the sum of nine pounds, £9 Os. 0d."

The amount really paid to Kelly for the job when completed was £10 3s., a mere fleabite in comparison with the sum expended, during the last few months only, on the now almost elegant GROVES STEPS.

M. O. Y.

[1827]

STRAY CHESHIRE NOTES.

I find the undermentioned Notes written in my copy of RICHARD GRAFTON's *Chronicles of England*—"in sedibus Richardi Tottyll," Black Letter; 1563.

The first entry is an effort at rhyme by a 16th century scribbler:—

"This is Rice Stor'y [his] Booke,
Whoe so steleth him shall
Be hanged vpon A hoke
As hie as Rice Stor'y Canne looke.

By me, Rice Stor'y.

Henry Cookson, of Burland, bought this Booke at a day of sale at Richard Betteleys, of Spring-lane, in the year 1724. Reed the 160 leaf and see the princepsals of the Church of Roome, how the were martyred in queene marys days.

March ye 15, 1757. A Grat wind and grat Damedg Dun to Acton Church & Steepell which will cost 15 Hunderd pound Repairing.

Sam'll Cookson ye younger Dyed ye 21 Day of Febrey, 1760, of ye Small pox, and was bured at Acton on ye 23.

King Georg & his Queen were Crowned Septemb'r ye 22, 1761, by [] Sam'l Cookson."

The scribbler of this "stray note" does not, of course, mean that he personally crowned the King and Queen, but that he (Sam'l Cookson) sets it down there on the margin of my old "Grafton" as a fact worth recording.

"June ye 13 & 14, 1768. Grait Rane and a grait Flood.

Ye 25 Day of July, 1769. Dyed ye Wife of Sir Wadkin Williams Win. Shee was Doughter to ye Duke of Benford, aged 21. They had bin married but Since ye 13 of April This present year.

March ye 7, 1770. Dyed Thos: Broomhall, Esq: and was Bured at Baddeley ye 12, and left ye Bulk of his Fortune to Mrs. Mary Wilbraham, of Hough, In the Parish of Widdensbury, and doug: of the Rev'and John Wilbraham; he was broder to Roger Wilbraham, late of Darford [Dorfold], Esqr.

April the 8, 1772. I went to Chester Assi'es and was on ye Jurey 14 Times, 13 on Trien [trying] Crimenals and one Lowe Shute [lawsuit].

Aug't the 8, 1774. Wrenbery Wakes mondey.
Ye 19 of Septemb'r. Then got in all our Corne In good order, 1774.

Aug't ye 19, 1781. Died, James Garrat of the Flaxyardes, in the Parish of Torp'ley, and County of Chester, aged I think about 80.

Oct'ber the 23, 1783. Died, William Bateman, of Chorley, aged 61, a sober onest man, and Said to a Kiled him Self by Hard Worke.

May ye 20, 1784. Bought 2 pigg of W. Woodref. They cost one pound 1 shilling, and 2d. Returned.

July the 27, 1785. Joseph Penney, Son of Jos. Penney, of Chorley, was drowned In Marbury meire.

Baddeley Court, Cept [kept] May the 5, 1788, at Thomas Bebbington, at Greleygreen, Thos. Wright, Gentleman Stured [Steward].

September the 18, 1790. Got In all our Corne.

July ye 9, 1794. Nantwich Race. 3 Days.

August 9, 1788. William Palin was bured at Bunbery from the Pinfould House of Burland Green."

C. W. DUNCAN.

Queries.

[1828] COTGREAVE'S CHESHIRE PEDIGREES.

Some thirty or forty years ago, while a relative of mine was in residence at Cambridge, he received a letter from, I suppose, a herald painter at Chester, named SPENCE, informing him that he could supply him with a pedigree of his family (the BRAYNES), who, from Cotgreave evidences in his (Spence's) possession, could be proved to have descended from a Cheshire warrior who fell on Blore field. Is anything known of this local herald—Cotgreave or Spence—for the two names seemed hopelessly jumbled together in the letter shewn to me?

New York.

P. BRAINE.

[1829] THE CONSTABLE'S SANDS.

I have frequently met in my reading with casual notices of the above, which are situated, I believe, at or about the mouth of the RIVER DEE. But are they not shifting sands, and can their precise locality at two or three different periods of history be readily pointed out?

M. O. Y.

[1830] BACKFORD.

What is the commonly accepted derivation of the name of this quiet Cheshire village? Is there anything in the locality itself illustrating the name?

JUVENIS.

Replies.

[1831] THE WAGGISH WELSH JUDGE.

[No. 1802.—July 19, 1882.]

In Moore's edition of Byron's Works there is the following note to the stanza containing the reference to Jeffries Hardsman:—"GEORGE HARDINGE, Esq., M.P., one of the Welsh Judges, died in 1816. His works were collected in 1818, by Mr. Nichols."

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. B.

[1832] STATUE OF A CHESTER BISHOP.

[No. 1734.—April 12, 1882.]

Your correspondent seems to be unaware of the legend relating to the foundation of the Church of St. JOHN's, otherwise the animal adjacent to the figure would have suggested whom it is that the statue represents.

The tradition is recorded by HENRY BRADSHAW, who died 1513, in "*The Holy Life and History of Saynt Werburge*," and runs thus:—

"The year of grace, six hundred fourscore and nyen,
As sheweth myne auctour, a Bryton *Giraldus*,
Kynge Ethelred, myndynge moost the blysse of Heven,

Edyfyed a Collage Churche notable and famous
In the suburbs of Chester, pleasant and beauteous,
In the honor of God, and the Baptyst Saynt Johan,
With help of bysahop Wulfrice, and good exortacion."

These lines are the earliest record of the founding of the Church; and although this date is disputed by many who are able to form an opinion, yet the tradition seems strengthened by the fact that the statue was executed prior to Monk BRADSHAW's birth.

How the site was chosen, I will leave Mr. HUGHES to say in his *Handbook to Chester*:—

"In Roman and early Saxon times the land to the south-east of the city, on both sides of the Dee, was most probably a forest—the home of the wild-deer, the fox, and the wolf,—the genius of civilisation finding ample field for employment within the walls. In those latter days, according to most authors, Ethelred, son of Penda, being king over Mercia, and withal an amiable and pious prince,

Myndynge moost the blysse of Heven,
journeyed towards Chester, on a visit, it may be, to his virgin niece, the holy St. Werburgh, then Abbess of Chester. While there, we are told that, being admonished by God in a vision "to build a church on the spot where he should find a white hind," the king and his nobles engaged in the chase, and straightway coming upon a white hind at this very place, the royal hunter, in 689, founded and erected there the Saxon Church of St. John the Baptist."

Mr. HUGHES also leans with the disputing parties who maintain that it was "*Earl* Ethelred, husband of

the celebrated Mercian Princess Ethelfleda, who, early in the 10th century, first erected this church," and not King Ethelred of the 7th century. However this undecided date of foundation may play upon the fancy of historical students, I have given the information required by "H. S. A.," and it must be a matter of future enquiry and interest to decide the exact year.

This statue is also interesting as being the only remains of the multitude of such that our city evidently possessed during the middle ages; one that, whilst commemorating the earliest era of the Collegiate Church of St. John the Baptist, has figured also in two very severe blows that that edifice has received. Its original position was in the central tower: whence, after standing for many years, it was thrown down by the fall of that tower about the year 1468, which did great damage to the church, causing the present ruinous, but extremely picturesque, chancel and chapels. These were never rebuilt: the central tower however was re-constructed, and the statue re-placed; but both again fell down A.D. 1572, and the parishioners declined this time to restore them.

Two years later the north-western steeple was subject to the same misfortune, in which fall the extremity of the church at that end was also destroyed. During the erection of the new steeple the statue, which had been discovered in the debris without having sustained any damage, was placed in a niche on the west side, where it stood in safety until the recent fall of the tower on April 14th, 1881. The statue was then taken down and placed in its present situation in the chancel ruins, which cannot be far distant from the spot where it was rescued from the rubbish occasioned by the fall in 1498. J. HEWITT.

SEPTEMBER 13, 1882.

Original Documents.

[1833] LETTER OF KING HENRY VIII. TO SIR EDWARD STANLEY, KT.

Royal Letters on affairs of State, especially when dating back to the early part of the 16th century, are of rare occurrence, and, when they do crop up in accredited MS. Collections, can never fail to be interesting to 19th century readers. Here is one relating to a family associated for ages with the sister Counties Palatine of Cheshire and Lancashire; and although it has at least on one occasion already been printed, viz., in SEACOME's *History of the House of Stanley*, this is the first time it has appeared in the *ipsissima verba* of the royal Secretary of State charged with its composition. We are indebted to the gentleman whose name appears at its foot for the following literal copy of this curious epistle.

EDITOR.

The King's letter is thus subscribed—

"To our trusty and well-beloved S'r ED : STANLEY."

"Trusty & well-beloved We greete you well. And under stand as well by the report of our right trustye Cousin and Counsellor, the Duke of Norfolk, as otherwise, what acceptable service you lately as by your valiant towardness in the assisting of our said Cousin against our Enemie late King of Scotts: and how courageously you as a very hartie loveing servant acquitted your selfe, for the overthrowe of the said late Kinge, and distressing of his malice and power to our great honor, and the advancing of your no litle Fame and Praise: for which we have good cause to favour And thank you: and see Wee full heartily doe: And assured may you be that we shall in such effectuall wise remember your said service, in your reasonable pursuites, as you shall have cause to thinke the same right well employed to our comforth and weale here after."

"Given vnder our Signett at our Castle at Windsor, the seven and twentieth of November, 1513."

"To our trusty and well beloved S'r Ed: Stanley."

The above letter, the Original of which is preserved at Condoover Hall, Salop, was written to Sir EDWARD STANLEY, of Hornby Castle, Lancashire, the fifth son of THOMAS, first EARL OF DERBY, renowned amongst the FLODDEN-FIELD heroes. In fulfilment of the promise contained in the Royal Letter, HENRY VIII., keeping his Whiteuntide at Eltham, the next ensuing year 1514, commanded that Sir EDWARD STANLEY, for those valiant acts against the SCOTS, where he won the *Mill*, and vanquished all that opposed him, as also that his ancestors bore the *eagle* in their crest, should be there proclaimed LORD OF MONTAGLE; and he had subsequently summons to parliament in that dignity, and was also elected K G.

Willaston.

JAMES HALL.

SEACOME, in his *History of the Ancient and Honourable House of Stanley*; Manchester: Joseph Harrop, opposite the Exchange, 1767, 4to, pp. 44-5, writes thus of the valour and loyalty of Sir EDWARD STANLEY:—

"And with regard to Sir Edward Stanley, this gentleman's active childhood and martial spirit brought him early to King Henry VIII.'s notice and company, and his active manhood to his service: the Camp was his School, and his Learning was a Pike and Sword. His Majesty's greeting to him, wherever they met, was "Ho! my Soldier!"

Honour floated in his veins, and valour danced in his spirits; but nowhere more visibly, nor with greater courage and lustre than at the Battle of Flodden Field, in Scotland, the fifth of Henry VIII., 1514. Here he commanded the Rear of the English Army, and was attacked by the Earls of Lenox and Argyll, both of whom were slain on the field, with the King of Scots himself! And by his high accomplishments in the art of War, and by the valour of his Archers, he forced the Scots to descend the Hill

their stronghold, which caused them to open their ranks; by which they were put into such disorder as gave the first hopes to that day's Victory, which was greatly owing to the valour and good conduct of the brave general, Sir Edward Stanley!"

EDITOR.

Notes.

[1834] LEWIS BAYLEY, BISHOP OF BANGOR.

Your contributor, "ALIEN," who so often supplies the texts of some excellent articles to THE SHEAF, has furnished an interesting document in the Will of the author of the most popular devotional book in England and Wales before the days of *The Pilgrim's Progress*. I mean *The Practice of Piety*. A few other elucidatory comments might be made on the Bishop's will. The name of his wife explains, for the first time, a passage in one of the son's books, who said that he himself was a peer's son, and his mother a knight's daughter. The Bagnalls were of Newcastle-under-Lyne and Stoke, co. Stafford, and Newry Castle, Ireland. Sir Henry Bagnall, the father of Anne, married a daughter of Sir John Savage, of Rook Savage, county Chester, and [he] was a Lord Deputy of Ireland, and was killed in 1598. The introduction of Carmarthen into the will shews that the testator had not forgotten the place of his birth, for he was born there about 1565. Spite of this fact, Mr. Foster, in his *Peerage* (Anglesey), gives a Scotch orthography to Bayley's name, and makes him to "have come into England with James I." *Nicholas*, the first-named son, became a Major in Ireland, and died about 1689. *John* was educated in the same college as his father, viz., Exeter College, Oxford; became D.D. in 1630; and was the author of several sermons, &c. From one of these sons was descended the Marquis of Anglesey, of Plas Newydd in that island. *Theodore* became inoumbent of Llanfui in 1631. *Thomas*, the youngest, who had by bequest his father's books, held likewise a curacy in Wales in 1631, and was made sub-dean of Wells. He was at the siege of Baglan Castle with the Marquis of Worcester, and subsequently going to the Continent he became a Roman Catholic. He directed his pen chiefly against Commonwealths, and wrote some books in religious controversy, and a *Life of Fisher*, Bishop of Rochester.

The life of the Bishop Bayley himself was cast in days favourable to his preferment. He shewed talents as a preacher and writer; and being a follower of the Court, his promotion naturally followed. The first dignity he held was that of Treasurer of St. Paul's, being then a Master of Arts; he received the post in 1610, on the death of Giles Fletcher. He was also Minister at Evesham, Warwickshire, where the substance of his

book on *Piety* was preached; Minister of St. Matthew's, Friday-street, London; and Archdeacon of St. Albans. Moreover, he was Chaplain to Prince Henry, of whose character and prospects he entertained the loftiest hopes. He became D.D. in 1618, and held a prebend in Lichfield Cathedral from 1614 until his death. Meanwhile his *Practice of Piety*, first published, it is supposed, about 1608, was becoming a popular book, and an eleventh edition, published in 1619, was dedicated to Prince Charles. In a sermon on the death of Prince Henry in 1612, Bayley was called to account for preaching on the decay of religion, "owing to Popery in the Council." Further promotion, nevertheless, was at hand. He became a royal chaplain; and in 1616 was made Bishop of Bangor, in succession to Dr. Rowlands. The Court gossip set down the appointment as an unworthy one. He offended James I. in 1620 by praying for the King and Queen (Elizabeth) of Bohemia, before James himself had acknowledged his son-in-law's title. In July of the following year he was sent to the Fleet for "disputing malapertly with the King on the Sabbath," i.e., it is presumed, on the subject of the Sabbath, for the King would frequently outrage its sanctity. On this subject, we know, the author of the *Practice* held the severest Puritan opinions; for, citing God's judgements by fire, he introduces the case of the burning of Tiverton in 1598 and 1612 for profanation of the Sabbath. The town being burnt yet once again, a brief for a collection was issued; and those who were solicited for subscriptions reminded the collector of the sin of the town, as recorded in Bayley's book. The collector retorted that "there was no truth in it, and that the 'Practice of Piety' had done them much wrong!"

The Bishop on settling down in his diocese seems to have meddled with matters which did not concern his episcopal functions. Amongst his employments was that of Guardian of Christ's Hospital in Ruthin. In December, 1625, we find him describing to the King some incidents which were taking place in Anglesey. About August of that year, he says, a ship rounded the north-east coast of the island, and at the same time Hugh Owen Gwenwnog returned for a short period very gallant and full of gold; the Roman Catholics flocked to him, and several had since sold all they had and gone after him. The same party, he proceeds, were audacious, and a stranger had lately surveyed the havens. The arms and powder at Beaumaris were totally unserviceable, and 100 men would over-run the island. The deputy-lieutenants and justices abused their authority to favour their friends, and the country stood in the greatest danger. One of the King's ships, added the bishop, would be a great protection.

Meanwhile James I. interfered with some of the Bishop's patronage, for in 1622 he wrote for Dan Loubet to be admitted to the Donative of Llandinam, Llanidan, or Llandenam, co. Montgomery, *vice* Paul de

Ravoire, deceased. In 1637 John de Lima, a Spaniard, petitioned the Bishop for the same Donative, without cure of souls. More noticeable is Charles I.'s letter to the Bishop, in 1638, for Patrick Young, keeper of the King's Library, to be inducted into the comportionary, or one half of the same benefice.

The latter days of the bishop were troubled. In 1626, he was in disgrace with the Parliament. Charges of simony were brought against him; he had quarrels with the Vice-admiral of North Wales, about wreckage, &c.; it was said that he was negligent in the government of his See, and that he had given Orders to some who would not subscribe to the Articles. There is a letter of his extant, dated Bangor, 7th April, 1630, addressed to the King, in which he endeavours to free himself from the allegations brought against him. He protests that for the future he would himself keep the book of subscriptions. He states that he had expended £600 in repairs of his cathedral, had planted grave and learned preachers over all his diocese, three or four preaching ministers for one he found; had taken care that catechizing was duly observed; had suffered none to preach but such as were conformable; and had himself preached every Sunday "until he became impotent." He and his clergy, moreover, had provided armour for 100 men ready for the King's service; he had taken pains in visiting, conferring, and keeping synode, where all his clergy gave him an account of every man's life and doctrine; and he had kept hospitality above his means, and all his actions tended to the well-governing of the diocese. Let us hope that this is a correct record of Bayley's Episcopal life! He died 26th October, 1631; was buried in Bangor Cathedral; and was succeeded in the see by Dr. D. Dolben.

Siretford, Manchester.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

[1835] HOLT, CO. DENBIGH.

To any one associated with the border counties, HOLT must be remembered with interest, both as to its history and the beauty of its position. From its close proximity to Cheshire and its being attached to FARN-DON by the very beautiful Bridge across the Dee, it lays claim to much local importance; and indeed for many years was of considerable help in the defence of this county while garrisoned by outposts from CHESTER.

A few hasty visits to this village have made me roughly acquainted with much of its history and traditions; but several matters have not been fully explained to me, and I shall be glad, for instance, to be instructed upon the following:—

The Mayoralty of HOLT is "a time-honoured office whose history lies buried in obscurity," as many of our authors would say; but I doubt if many such so-called offices are of the antiquity claimed for them, although perhaps this present case is one happily in point. But when was the first Mayor elected, and how? Did the

office arise from that of Bailiff, or from the earlier Court Leet, or is it established by Charter from the Crown? It is curious that the election takes place on a day quite distant from the usual date for the election of Mayors.

The old Village Cross, now removed, is succeeded by a cross standing upon the old flight of steps. In its original state the Cross would be very imposing, and it seems desirable that some description of its character and appearance should be permanently recorded, and any drawings that may have been made of it registered and preserved. Mr. Alfred Rimmer, in his "Ancient Crosses of England," mentioned it slightly; and perhaps it may be said, that his large collection of material as to this branch of art is more full and ambitious than that of any other local author.

The Church is beautifully situated and has, quite within the last few years, been restored by Mr. JOHN DOUGLAS, architect, of CHESTER. The style is somewhat similar to GRESFORD, though not so ornamental in detail.

During service there one day last summer, my eye rested on a perpendicoular Font, on whose sides were shields bearing various coats of arms, which I should like to see properly described, as I had no means ready to hand for obtaining these particulars. The Tower is very interesting, and well illustrates the character of a country steeple. The Bells are of good tone, and were cast by ABRAHAM RUDHALL, whose name as a bell-founder is well known.

J. HEWITT.

Mr. HEWITT, at his next visit to HOLT, should take careful copies or rubbings of the inscriptions on these Bells, as well as of the coats of arms on the Font, and turn them to good account in the columns of THE SHEAF?

EDITOR.

[1836] BORDER COUNTIES' BOOKS AND AUTHORS.

I have often thought how much we have neglected Border Authors and their works, and had intended asking you to find a corner in THE SHEAF for an occasional notice of the men—our neighbours—and of the books they wrote; but one occupation after another has taken up my time, and thus the first object of my heart has had to be put off to some more convenient season. I have picked out of my own collection a few of the authors, and of the works, which are deserving of mention; others will follow in due time, but if meanwhile I could induce some of your book-loving correspondents to take the subject matter in hand, and to exhaust it, so far as that is possible, I shall have rendered some slight service to the reading public at large. And now to my examples:—

GARDINER'S *Herefordensis* is a curious and interesting little volume, published at Oxford in the year 1675. The title page is as follows:—"Richardi Gardiner HEREFORDENSIS ÆDIS CHRISTI, Oxon. Canonici, Specimen Oratorium, Cum Supplemento Novissimo." It is not even noticed in the *Bibliographer's Manual*,

although the author was a well-known personage; being both a Canon of Christchurch, and Chaplain in Ordinary to King CHARLES I. He was born at Hereford in the year 1591, and for a time was head master of the Grammar School in that city; he died in 1670, and was buried in Oxford Cathedral.

Another Herefordian author—JOHN DAVIES—is well represented, but of his numerous works I mention the scarce one "*Mirum in Modum, A Glimpse of God's Glorie and The Soules Shape.*" It was published in London by William Alpley in the year 1602.

Salopian Bibliographers often strive in vain to secure a perfect copy of the following scarce work—"Loyalty Amongst REBELS, The true Royalist, or Hushay the Archite, A happy Counsellour in King David's Greatest Danger." The book was written by EDWARD WOLLEY, D.D., Chaplain in Ordinary to King Charles II., and was published in London in the year 1662, and by way of reward, probably, the author was appointed Bishop of Clonfert in 1665. He was a native of Shrewsbury.

Another Salopian work is "*Amorum Troili Et Cresoidae, Libri duo priores Anglico-Latini, Oxoniae, Excudebat Johannes Lichfield, Anno Domini 1635.*" The author, FRANCIS KINASTON, was son of Sir Edward Kinaston, of Otley, Shropshire, where he was born. He was educated at Oriel College, Oxford, and had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him by King CHARLES I. He died in the year 1649.

Nor must I pass over the following memorial to a Salopian worthy, seeing that such "*Garlands*," though written by others in praise of the *native born*, have not escaped observation. The volume is known to collectors as *Cotton's Parentalia*, but it is in fact a collection of diverse Latin and English verses in remembrance of Sir ROWLAND COTTON, of Bellaport in Shropshire,—"*Parentalia Spectatissimo Rolando Cottono Equiti Aurato Salopiensi, Memoriae E Pietatis Ergo, Londini, Excudebat, A.M., 1635.*" If the deceased deserved all the handsome things said of him, we cannot wonder that his friends, on his death, conspired thus to transmit his honoured name to posterity.

HENRY VAUGHAN's works are scarce, particularly so a small volume published in the year 1651, entitled *Olor Iscanus*. The first part of the volume, comprising, with title, seventy-seven pages, is taken up with addresses to readers, &c., and the Poems; and the latter part by the following, Englished by Vaughan:—I. "*Of the Benefit we get by our Enemies*;" II. "*Of the Diseases of the Mind and Body*;" III. Another tractate on same subject by another author; IV. "*The Praise and Happiness of the Countrie Life.*" Each of these small things has a separate title page; but the title of the volume itself is as under:—

"*OLOR ISCANUS, a collection of some select Poems and Translations, formerly written by Mr. HENRY VAUGHAN, Silurist, Published by a Friend. Virg. Georg. Flumina amo Sylvasq., Inglorius.*

London, Printed by T. W. for Humphrey Mosely, and are to be sold at his Shop, at the Signe of the Prince's Arms in St. Paul's Church Yard, 1651."

The copy in this collection is in good condition, and is quite perfect.

A BOOKWORM.

Queries.

THE CORACLE.

[1837] The Ancient Britons are credited with the invention and first use of the Coracle: is there any reliable historic foundation for this?

A BANGORIAN.

[1838] A BISHOP AND A HOUSEBREAKER.

In the course of my reading, while quite a young man, for the common-law bar, I remember coming across a statement that a Bishop of CHESTER, or one of the Welsh dioceses, was once indicted for housebreaking! The details, though not the bare fact, have in the long interval escaped me; but there is no doubt some one of your correspondents who can relate the chief points of the story, and perhaps name the parties concerned in the trial?

CAMBRIA.

Replies.

[1839] HERKIN'S WELL FIELD, CHESTER.

[No. 1722.—March 29, 1882.]

Our occasional correspondent "Y. O. M." enquired, as above, for the position of this Field, and for some information as to *Herk*, after whom a Well there seems to have been named. Here is the little I have to offer in reply.

In the Cheshire "Charities Commissioners' Report," 1839, pp. 438-56, under the head of GREAT BUDWORTH or WITTON Grammar School, founded on Oct. 26, 1557, by Sir John Deane, Rector of St. Bartholomew's, Smithfield, and Prebendary of Lincoln, the Commissioners describe a portion of the School's property as follows:—

"That messuage with the appurtenances, called the 'Swan,' with an orchard and garden thereto belonging, on the south side of the Foregate Street, in the city of Chester, and one field on the north side of the said street, adjoining to Flooker's Brook, called *Herk*'s Well Field; and also all the shops, cellars, cellars, edifices, rows, tenements, &c., thereto belonging in the city of Chester aforesaid."

From this and other evidence that has in past days come before me, I am able roughly to say that *Herk*'s

Well Field included great portion of the land bounded on the west by the Justing Croft, on the south by Foregate Street, on the east by Hoole Lane, and on the north by Brook Street towards FLOCKERSBROOK, yet within the old boundary of the city on that side. Thus all to the eastward of the present Queen Street, as far as and along Hoole Lane until you reach the present Railway Station, and westward to Queen Street again, would all be included roughly in *Herkis's Well Field*.

Somewhere within that space there doubtless was a Well, but I am unaware of its even approximate position: the Canal and other artificial circumstances will have of necessity interfered greatly with all wells, water levels, and land levels too. Who *Herkis* was, if any such being ever existed, will probably continue a mystery: I have my own theory about it, but until there be found some evidence to support it, I prefer to treat it as "a point reserved." T. HUGHES.

SEPTEMBER 27, 1882.

Original Documents.

[1840] JAMES, 7TH EARL OF DERBY.

There is preserved in the library at Conover Hall a bound vol. of MSS., that once belonged to James, the 7th Earl of Derby, who manifested such devotion and zeal in the royal cause in the time of the great Civil War. It is headed "*The private Devotion of the Rt. Hon'ble that glorious martyr James Earle of Derby, Composed by his Lo^p upon severall occasions in the Isle of Man, 1650*"; and contains original prayers for private use; reflections on passages of scripture; an historical account of the Isle of Man and its ancient bishops; a diary of the siege of Lathom House; and a *Calendar*, in which are entered, in the Earl's own handwriting, personal reminiscences and a family register. This calendar consists of 12 pages, one page for each month, with the number for each day in the month, in a column on the left hand side. Though the entries are but few and brief, they furnish some particulars which cannot be found elsewhere. The entries, in their entirety, are as follows; to which explanatory notes are added:—

"A WRITTEN CALENDAR BY JAMES, EARL OF DERBY.

Jan. 7. My sone Edward was borne. (1)

(1) Edward, the fourth son, was born on 7 Jan., 1638; and died unmarried at Portsmouth on 7 March, 1684.

Jan. 19. My sone Charles was borne. (2)

(2) Charles, the eldest son and heir, was born on 19 Jan., 1637. He succeeded his father as 8th Earl of Derby and died in 1672.

Jan. 31. I was borne. (3)

(3) James, 7th Earl of Derby, was born on 31 Jan., 1608. He was the son and heir of William, 6th Earl, K.G., and

Elizabeth his wife, the daughter of Edward Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford.

Feb. 24. My son Henry Frederick was borne. (4)

(4) Henry Frederick was the second son of Earl James, and was born 24 Feb., 1634; and died 27 March, 1638.

March 4. Wee fyred ye Spanish Ship at wire water in Lancashire, 1643.

„ 10. My daughter Charlotte was borne. (5)

(5) Charlotte, the eldest daughter, was born 10 March, 1638.

March 18. Wee tooke ye Towne of Lancaster by by assault, &c., 1643.

„ 29. Wee defended ye Calfe of Man ag't ye Parliam't Shipes, 1651.

April 3. Our enemies were rowted at Stockenheath, near Warrington, 1643.

„ 4. My daughter Charlotte dyed, 1639. (6)

(6) Charlotte was buried in Westminster Abbey.

April 21. The enemies Cannon played 29 times, ye Morter peece 5 times ag't Lathom house, 1644. (7)

(7) "On Saturday, they made 30 shootes of their demi-cannon and culverin to batter a posterne-tower, some part whereof stode without the mote and palliades, yet aee fenced by a rising ground that their ordinance tooke onely the battlements and a yard of wall; w'ch was made good agayne the same night, with greater strength and safety for the musketeers then formerly. It was some requitall for the breach of a few stones, that theire can'oneers was alaine through the porthole by one of our men from the tower. Having either done with the canon or canoneer, they now begin with the mortar-peece, w'ch that afternoons they play'd five times; in the night twice w'th stones and once w'th granadoe, w'ch also by turneing of the gunner fell short of the house." (*"Journal of the Siege of Lathom House,"* Cheth. Soc. Publ., Vol. ii., p. 175.)

April 26. Wee relieved Warring', 1643: the Morter peece was taken at Lathom, 1644. (8)

(8) A vigorous *sortie* being made from the House, they engaged with the enemy for about an hour; and in the meantime the moat was levelled and the mortar-piece lifted by ropes "to a low drage, and by strength of men it was drawn into the House." (see *ibid.*, p. 178.)

May 27. The Seige was raised from before Lathom 1644. (9)

(9) King Charles sent Rupert with forces to the aid of Lathom House, at the earnest request of the Earl.

May 28. The Towne of Boulton was taken, 1644.

June 15. I came first into ye blessed Isle of Man, 1643. (10)

(10) In his youthful days the Earl had lived chiefly at Lathom and Knowsley. In the previous month (20th April, 1643) Earl Derby had been defeated at Whalley; from whence he retreated north to Whitehaven, and sailed to the Isle of Man, which at that time was threatened with an invasion by the Scots. The Earl secured the safety of the island, leaving his Countess to defend Lathom House.

June 17. Mrs. Anne Cottington, ye Lord Cottington's daughter, & my daughter in law, dyed, 1643. (11)

(11) The lady whom Earl James here affectionately refers to as his daughter-in-law was Anne, only daughter to Sir Francis Cottington, first and last Lord Cottington, by Anne, daughter of Sir William Meredith, Knight, of London, his wife. The young lady had only then lately

been betrothed to Charles, Lord Strange; and though the marriage was never actually celebrated owing to her untimely death on the 17th of June, 1643, she appears to have been buried in the Stanley tomb at Ormakirk with her bereaved lover's ancestors, on the 5th September following.

June 25. I was married, 1626. (12)

- (12) His wife, the celebrated heroine of the War, was Charlotte de la Tremouille, second and only surviving daughter of Claude, Duc de Tremouille, and Charlotte Brabantine de Nassau. It is said by this union James, Earl Derby, became allied to the houses of Nassau and Bourbon, and to most of the sovereign princes of Europe.

July 17. My daughter Amelia Anna Sophia was borne. (13)

- (13) Amelia Anna Sophia, the youngest daughter, was born 17 July, 1633. She was imprisoned together with her sister Lady Henrietta, and her mother the Countess, at Chester, in the Commonwealth period; and afterwards married John Murray first Marquis, of Athol.

July 30. My wife landed in ye Isle of Man. (14)

- (14) Prince Rupert recommended the Earl to retire to Man with his Countess and children in June, 1644, after the first siege of Lathom House.

Aug. 15. I escaped great danger of being killed in a mankes boat, coming from Captaine Bartlets ship at Derby Haven; a shott being made from the said ship: (whether by chance or no is doubtfull) it was, as is pretended, a mistake of one peece for another, but it was charged with musquett bullets, peecees of Iron &c. which killed my deer freind mr. Rich. Weston and a man y't rowed, wounded Coll: Snead in a grievous manner, and I sitting in the midst of them escaped by ye great goodness of Almighty God, 1650. (15.)

- (15) Covenanters and Roundheads came from Scotland and England for the purpose of spreading sedition among the Earl's retainers and friends, and plotting his ruin. He remained on the island till 1651; but being summoned to support Charles II., who had been crowned at Soane, in January, he joined the Royal army, and fought at Worcester. In endeavouring to escape to the north, he was taken in Shropshire; and ultimately beheaded at Bolton, in Lancashire; the gallows, it is said, being built of timber from the ruins of Lathom House.

Sept. 22. As I was reading alone in my chamber at Castle Rushen about 12 in the night blood fell in a very strang[e] manner vpon my booke, 1647.

[This entry is the last in the handwriting of the brave Earl: the remaining three months of the Calendar being left blank. But in the October page, the most melancholy event of all is recorded, by another hand, possibly by his son and successor, Charles, 8th Earl, as follows.]:—

Oct. 15. Earl James was beheaded at Bolton in Lancashire, 1651.

[FINIS.]”

Willaston, Nantwich.

JAMES HALL.

Notes.

[1841] WILLIAM WELDE OF CHESTER.

My taste for collecting epitaphs has resulted, on many occasions, in connecting my native county with that of others very distant. The present one I glean from the columns of that useful *Notes and Queries*, so much beloved by all antiquaries. Under date January 12, 1878, I find the inscription accompanied by a notice signed by “Everard Green, F.S.A.,” both of which I hope will be acceptable to bind in *THE SHEAF*.

“Everard Green, F.S.A.,” says,—As Marrat in his “History of Lincolnshire,” vol. i., p. 226, only gives part of the monumental inscription on the Wymberley monument in Pinchbeck Church; and as now the inscription is wholly illegible, it seems but fitting to place on record a copy made of it by his ancestor, Maurice Johnson, the antiquary, in 1735. The inscription is as follows:—

“Orta
Gulielmo Welde, generoso Cestrensi
et

Dorotheæ Georgii Wright, Cant, equitis
uxor

Gulielmi Wimberli armig'ri hujus eo. et parochiæ
s'orum Innocentium die
Chori triumphantis Æmula
suam sibi nec minoris Innocentis
stolam induta Primo puerperis
ad oculis emigravit

et
quicquid habuit terræ hinc totum juxta deposuit
statis anno 25 salutis, 1656.

Tam gloriose resurgat quam pulchre occubuit.”

Arms.—Quarterly, first and fourth, azure, two bars and in chief three bucks' heads caboshed, or, (Wymberley); second and third, ermine, a fesse nebulee sable (Sharpe); impaling azure, a fesse nebulee between three orreosents ermine (Weld).

On the base of the monument—

“Etiam præ memoria Bevillii Johannis filii Thomæ Wymberley armigeri hinc proxime in vicina ecclesiæ Spaldensi in-humati anno MDCXVI neonon Elizabethæ et Francisæ uxorum filius Gulielmo Welbye, prænobili ordine Balnei Equitis Equæ villæ Gedeniensi qui hic juxta jacent sub spe Christianorum.”

I should be glad to see any particulars of this Cheshire family of Weld, which I presume to be a branch of that seated at Eaton, near Beeston. Several of the stock settled at Newbold-Astbury, London, Holt, and Lulworth Castle in Dorsetshire: perhaps it is not impossible to shew their descent and to learn what branch the person in question belonged to.

J. H.

[1842] FRODSHAM CHURCH.

There was a paragraph in the *Convent* of the 24th July relating to the above church, from which I quote, "According to Mr. HELEBY in the last edition of 'Ormerod,' certain passages in the 'Domesday Survey' clearly indicate that a church stood here (FRODSHAM) in Saxon times."

Now I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that in the "Domesday Survey" there is not even a letter, much less a word, indicating anything of the kind. The *Frodsam* entry in *Domesday* runs thus translated:—

"The same Earl (i.e., Earl Hugh) holds (Frodsam) Frodsam. Earl Edwin did hold it. There are 3 hides pay gold. There are 9 carucates (of land). In demesne there are 2. (There is) 1 Servus, 8 Villani, and 3 Borderers."

Nothing more is mentioned. It is not likely the able Commissioners of the stern Norman Conqueror would have overlooked a "church," when we are told that even a pig did not escape their notice.

Great Saughall.

W. H. BRADFORD.

[1843] WILLIAM MORGAN, D.D., BISHOP OF ST. ASAPH.

Mr. Nicholson in his useful *Cambrian Travellers' Guide*, published in 1813, says that WILLIAM MORGAN, D.D., the first translator of the Bible into Welsh, was a native, and vicar, of Llanrhaider yn Mochnant, Montgomeryshire. But he was not so; he was born at Gwibernant, Penmachno, Caernarvonshire, where his ancestors had been settled for many generations, and where also his descendants continued to dwell until the latter part of the last century.

This excellent man did serve as Vicar of Llanrhaider, and was promoted from that living to the Bishopric of Llandaff, from whence he was translated to ST. ASAPH in 1601, and there died in September, 1605; when Bishop RICHARD PARRY, often mentioned in THE SHEAF, succeeded. He it was who in 1620 published a revised edition of Morgan's Bible in folio. I rather wonder Mr. Nicholson should have made such a mistake as the one I have mentioned; for he is supposed to have had the benefit of perusing some papers which John Ellis Morgan, a descendant of the Bishop, had written, both about his great ancestor and Penmachno itself. These papers had been preserved by the Hollands of Conway, who were connected with the Morgans, and afterwards passed into the hands of the Rev. Canon Williams, who, I think, was a native of Conway, or of a place very near to it. The author of the *Guide* alludes to one of the Hollands as having judiciously planted and laid out in walks a little hill, near the mouth of the Conway, which he called *Arcadia*; that being the hill lying in close proximity to Mr. Albert Wood's new residence, *Bodlondeb*, and, until lately, open, I think, to

the public. Mr. Holland, it is said, was *allowed* to lay out his *Arcadia* as a place of public resort, it being evidently a part of the possessions once vested in the Corporation of Conway; but in time it fell into the hands of the ERSKINES—one of whom had married the representative of the Hollands—then, by sale, to Richard Davies, M.P. for Anglesey, and from him it passed by sale to Mr. ALBERT WOOD (late of Chester), who has beautified the whole place, and secured its privacy by the erection of the mansion named above.

The very fact that WILLIAM MORGAN did give to the Welsh people a full translation of the BIBLE in their native language, which he printed in 1586, gives to his name a dignity which but few can claim in any country; and yet it is very little we know about him, notwithstanding that he was Bishop of ST. ASAPH, and the correspondent of that rare old gossip, Sir John Wynne, of Gwydir. Mr. Thomas W. Hancock some years ago announced his intention to publish his life in a costly volume, but I have never seen it, nor any notice of it; and I have ventured therefore to send you this note, not only by way of correcting Mr. Nicholson, but with the view also of calling attention to the Bishop himself.

RHAN.

[1844] CHESHIRE PLACE-NAMES.

LYMM-LYMNE.

To Herodotus the derivation of "Europe" was an insoluble problem; the names of familiar places prove so to many moderns, even to men of the greatest linguistic attainments. Etymology is a fascinating study, often dangerous to young antiquaries, who are yet prone to it, as is evident from the pages of (at least) one of the most successful learned periodicals of the day! Still if our endeavour to confront the difficulties which beset us is made in a spirit of modest hesitation, a conjecture need not be regarded as a sin: and from a conjecture we sometimes, as we are told by high authority, may glide into a truth! What is the derivation of the Place-name LYMM, in North CHESHIRE? The word seems Celtic, and to mean a haven, or the water leading to it: compare Limerick, in Ireland, and Lymne, in Kent. Of the latter Mr. ROACH SMITH says that the fourth Iter of Antoninus, which points direct from *Londinium* to the *Portus Lemani*, reveals the character and importance of this ocean fortress. It was at the mouth of a river once considerable, but like the old Rhine, now almost obliterated: but river there was, and it is no other than the Limine or Limne, mentioned in the Saxon Chronicle (A.D. 893), and of which mention is made in various Charters cited by Kemble. Of this river Camden said that he would not venture to affirm it had ever existed, but its existence is now an admitted fact. [See Mr. Roach Smith's *Antiquities of Richborough, Reculver, and Lymne*.] But to return. It may be objected that the water at LYMM in Cheshire is *not* the Lymn but the Dane.

Who however will not admit that that stream had another name before the Danes were heard of?—and if so, who will venture to say that it was not previously called LYMM, just as Lymene before mentioned was the ancient appellation of the *Rother*, and just as Lymm Regis derived its local name from the river *Lym*, which there has its mouth?—See Gibson's *Camden's Britannia*, page 43.

Another derivation might assimilate Lymm to Lyme, Lime, Lim, lem, meaning limit or boundary, as Burslem, Newcastle-under-Lyme, and numerous others. Is not the former explanation the more probable conjecture?
Stafford. T. J. M.

Queries.

[1845] THE HUGGLE AT BOWDON.

There was, and I suppose still is, a field or croft at BOWDON, called "The Huggle." What is the derivation and popular meaning of the term? It is very desirable, as Mr. VAWDRY and others have pleaded in THE SHEAF, that these old place-names should be preserved from extinction. This one, if not now recorded under its ancient name, will be turning up some day as Smithville, Rose Lodge, Grasslea, or some other fashionable, but often *meaningless* and inappropriate name. Let us, if we can, save THE HUGGLE from any such indignity.
G. T.

[1846] LONG HOLDING OF A CHESHIRE FARM.

When lately in conversation with Mr. John Fletcher, of ALVANLEY, farmer, he named that his forefathers had been tenants of his present holding, in uninterrupted direct succession for over 300 years since the days of Shakespeare and bonny Queen Bess, and that he had documents in the house to prove it. I should like to hear in your "Wheat Sheaf" column how many Cheshire farmers—whose sober wishes never learn to stray—can prove the like. Can any more do so?

King's Clough, Birkenhead. J. C. BOND.

Replies.

[1847] BACKFORD.

[No. 1830.—Aug. 30, 1882.]

I have always understood that the name of Backford is a contraction from "Back o' the ford." There is still on the *Chester* side of the Ellesmere canal, which runs at the foot of BACKFORD hill, a small stream, where there was a ford in old times. The village was thus situated at the back of this ford, from Chester. Another

explanation has been given that the original name was *Beckford*: but "beck" as the name of a stream is not, I think, a Cheshire word: while "back of" for "behind" is a Cheshire expression.

Shrewsbury.

E. de V. B.

I am afraid you will pronounce the following suggestion as but ill-adapted for the purpose your correspondent has in view:—

"Back" is the Welsh for "Small" or "Little."

"Ffordd" is the Welsh for a "Way" or "Road."

"Mawr" is the Welsh for "Great" or "Large."

A few miles from BACKFORD (*Ffordd Back*) is a place in the parish of BROMBOROUGH, which has long been known as "The Marfords" (*Ffordd mawr*). You will find the latter on the Ordnance Map on the east side of the Valley called "Dibbensdale."

The Hundred of Wirral is, as the readers of THE SHEAF need scarcely be reminded, very near the Principality of Wales.

Can you put this and that together to any useful purpose?

Bromborough.

J. R. W.

[1848] HOLT, CO. DENBIGH.

[No. 1835.—Sept. 13, 1882.]

Your correspondent Mr. J. HEWITT, under this heading, says he should be glad of a reply to the following:—

"When was the first Mayor (of HOLT) elected, and how? Did the office arise from that of Bailiff or from the earlier Court Leet, or is it established by Charter from the Crown?"

I find on looking into "Hulbert's *Cheshire Antiquities*," that he describes the borough of HOLT and its incorporation as follows:—

"The borough of HOLT in the county of Denbigh: a place eminent as being anciently an outpost to the Roman Station *Deva*; and the Castle or fortress erected here, according to some antiquaries, was in consequence called *Castra Legionis*, or "the Castle of the Legion," synonymous with the Welsh name of *Castell Leon*, which was afterwards changed to the Castle of Lions."

"HOLT was incorporated as a borough town under a Charter granted by Thomas, Earl of Arundel, with royal sanction, dated from his 'Castle of Lions,' A.D. 1410. But the grant was partial and, like many others made at the same period, exclusively cruel. 'To the burgesses of our town, and to their heirs and successors, being *Englishmen*.' By virtue of this grant, HOLT has the privilege of a Corporation, being governed by a Mayor, two bailiffs, coroner, &c. In the time of 'Leland' it appears to have passed the acme of its consequence. 'The Holt is a praty riche Walsche town, governid by a Maire, having ons a yere a fair; but surely no celebrate market. Yu it is a praty church, and a goodly castle.'"

Eastgate Row (N).

WILLIAM SELLER.

OCTOBER 11, 1882.

Original Documents.

[1849] ST. OSWALD'S REGISTERS, CHESTER.

These Registers commence in 1580, and continue with commendable regularity to the present hour. The first volume of the series is a somewhat bulky but well-kept record, and as a genealogical evidence stands probably at the head of all our local records of this class. The courtesy of the present vicar, the Rev. W. H. L. COGSWELL, has enabled me to make a very extended abstract of its contents; and as many of the entries have considerable public and family interest, I will quote a few from time to time, adding such notes as on a hasty survey present themselves to my mind. The volume opens as follows:—

"Zacharye Rogerson, son to Mr. Archdeacon Rogerson, Bapt' 18^o octobris, 1580."

Archdeacon Robert Rogerson (*alias* ROGERS) was a native of Chester, and educated at the King's School. He was a distinguished divine, and an even more distinguished local historian. On the death of Prebendary John Lane in 1580 (the same who will be familiar to the readers of *THE SHEAF* as having grappled with and conquered the curious case of hysteria related a few months ago in these columns), he was collated to the sixth stall in Chester Cathedral on Nov. 25, 1580, becoming Archdeacon of Chester the following year. He died in 1595, and was buried there, as the following extract from St. Oswald's Book, then registering also for the Cathedral, proves:—

"Mr. Robert Rogers, Archdeacon of Chester, and p'bend of the mingster, sep't's 31 Dece', 1595."

ARCHDEACON ROGERS was Rector of Gawsorth and Prebendary of Chester Cathedral, where most of his children were baptised. His will was proved in the Chester Registry in 1595, and still remains of record there. Of his local collections several copies in manuscript have been preserved, these being chiefly the handiwork of DANIEL ROGERS his son; who imbibed much of the spirit of his antiquarian and clerical father, with the industry and care needed to reproduce his valuable MS.

In the old timber church of ECCLESTON, replaced by the present church half a century ago, there was an interesting monument to Archdeacon Rogers or rather to his widow, the particulars of which now lost record were fortunately preserved by the late Rev. Thomas Crane, in his small *History of Eccleston*, published in 1774. I will give here a copy of the Monument at Eccleston, which with several others met their too usual fate when the present edifice was built:—

(arms) "The memoriall of the just shall be blessed. Thou shalt go to thy grave in a full age, as a ricke of corne cometh in due season into ye Barne" (arms)

pro. x. job. v.

Hears lyeth
Interred the bodie

Of Mrs. Elizabeth Rogers, one of the daughters of John Deane of Wallingford in the countye of Barkshire gent. and late wiffe to that Reverend Man of god Mr. Robt. Rogers Batchlor of devinitie Archdeacon of Chester and one of the prebendes of the cathedrall church of the same, with whom she lived xxvi * yeres: a rare wiffe and godly matron; by whom she had x sonnes and v daughters: after whose death she remained a devout widdow unto the time of her death being xxii * yeaeres: whose holy life, love to her husband and childeren, liberallitie to the poore, bountifull hospitalitie, helpinge of the poore in sicknes and diseases, a rare gifte of god, christian charitie towards all, with her truly religeous life both in counsell and practise, shined in her plentifully all her dayes, to gods glorie and now to her endles eternitie. Who departed this life in a good age the xi day of December Anno Domini j6j7, and in the LXXII yeaere of her age.
* * * * * Hodie mihi, cras tibi."

Mr. CRANE adds the following note under his description of Mrs. ROGERS' monument at Eccleston:—

"The concluding latin sentence * [i. e. to-day for me, to-morrow for you] is likewise found at the end of an inscription in memory of Wm. Aldersey, a mayor of Chester, who died An. 1577: which inscription was placed in the chancel of St. Oswald's church in Chester, about 1605.

Mr. J. PAUL RYLANDS in his most interesting volume of "Cheshire Funeral Certificates" (Record Society, vol. vi.) gives, at p. 168, the following Certificate of Mrs. ROGERS' burial at Eccleston; RANDLE HOLME being no doubt the officer who marshalled the procession and who conducted it from Chester to the place of interment:—

"Mrs. ELIZABETH ROGERS, of the City of Chester, vid', dyed on the xijth days of December, 1617, and lyeth interred in Eccleston Church in the County of Chester. She was daughter to John Deane of Wallenford, in the County of Barkshire, gent. She was maryed to Robt. Rogers, Bachlor in Divinetye and Archdeacon of Chester, by whom she had ysaue x sonnes & 5 daughters, teftene children in the whole."

The will of Elizabeth Rogers of Eccleston was proved in the Chester Registry in 1617. T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1850] TWO CURIOUS EXTRACTS FROM THE DOMESDAY SURVEY.

The first refers to Etone (Eaton) in the ancient Hundred of Dudestan, from which we may gather that Eaton was

not far from Chester, because the Dudestan Hundred was generally placed with the Cestre Hundred.

As a rule these notices of places in the "Survey" have a tedious sameness. In this instance, the curiosity lies in the mongrel language made use of. I will give the translation of the whole of this entry:—

"The same Earl Hugh held Eton. Earl Edwin did hold it. There is $1\frac{1}{2}$ hide of land pays geld. The whole of the land is 2 carucates. In the Manor there is one carucate, 2 Herdmen, & 2 Copyholders with one carucate. There is a Fishery (piscaria) which pays a thousand salmon. There were 6 Fishermen (piscatores) and 1 acre of pasture. In King Edward's (The Confessor) time, it was valued at £10, and after that £8, the present value is £10."

Very few, if any, country places in CHESHIRE were valued so high at that time. ETON being in Earl HUGH's own holding, I presume that these salmon would be mainly for his own table and that of his household. There was no polluting the grand old Dee then, with filth that ought to enrich the land instead of poisoning the fish.

2nd—I do not think in the whole of the Domesday Survey, relating to Cheshire, there is an instance of a female landholder besides the one that held Cepamundewiche, in Wilaveston Hundred. Some have supposed that this name was changed into Caldey Hundred. Why may not the present Willaston be the seat of that which was the Wilaveston (the Wirral) Hundred? But to return—

"Godia tenuit & libera femina fuit.

Godia did hold it, and was a free woman.

Her land was waste, and had been."

W. H. BRADFORD.

[1851] FAMILIES OF PARRY, BULKELEY, PRICE, AND PULESTON.

I resume my Notes on celebrated Cambro-Irish families, with BENJAMIN PARRY, D.D., younger son of Dr. EDWARD PARRY, and brother of Dr. JOHN PARRY.

This BENJAMIN was born in Dublin, and educated in Trinity College in that city. He thence removed with his brother to OXFORD, where he was elected Fellow of Corpus Christi College in 1633, and installed Prebendary of Knaresborough, in Yorkshire.

He afterwards returned to Ireland, resigning his Prebendship, and was appointed Chaplain to Arthur Capel, EARL OF ESSEX, the then Lord Lieutenant; by whom, on the 19th Feb., 1663, he was promoted to the Deanery of St. Canice, Kilkenny, and to the Rectory of Aghavoe in the Queen's Co. On the 17th Feb., 1664, he was promoted to the Deanery of St. Patrick's, Dublin; and on the 24th Jan., 1677-8, was appointed to the See of Ossory as successor to his brother JOHN. The 4th October, 1678, he died at the Bishop's Palace, Kilkenny; from whence his body was removed to Dublin, and interred in St. AUBON's, in the same tomb with his father and his brother.

His will bears date the 1st October, 1678; by which he gives "to his dear and well-beloved wife ELIZABETH PARRY, and to his dear children, all his personal estate, and appoints his wife sole executrix, and his cousin GILBERT NICHOLSON, overseer." On the 24th October, 1678, probate thereof was granted forth of the Prerogative Court of Dublin to the widow; and on the 29th July, 1679, administration *de bonis non* by the said Elizabeth was granted by the Prerogative Court to the Rev. WILLIAM MORETON, S.T.D., Dean of Christ's Church, Dublin, to the use of GEORGE PARRY and BENJAMIN PARRY, minors, the said Elizabeth Parry being then defunct.

This Elizabeth was the sister of Herbert Barrington, barrister-at-law, of Dublin. She did not long survive her husband, having died in Dublin in the month of June, 1679. By her will, bearing date the 2nd day of June, 1679, she directs:

That after her sister (sister-in-law) Constance's death, the houses in St. Bride-street should be settled on her son BENJAMIN PARRY; the houses in St. Steven's-street on her son THOMAS PARRY; and if any of her other sons died without issue, that the houses in St. Bride-street and in St. Steven's-street should be settled on her youngest son; and if he should die without issue, on the longest liver of them. And she nominated and appointed her dear brother Herbert Barrington, WM. MORETON, D.D., and Dean of Christ Church, Trustees of her Will, and that Maurice Watson be joined with them.

By a codicil or memorandum thereto she declared that her son George should have her diamond ring and watch; her son Benjamin a Turkey-stone ring; her sister Flood a plain gold ring; her sister Hawshaw a gold ring and small locket; her sister Humbles a gold locket; her sister Barrington a gold locket; her sister Goodwin a gold ring and locket.

After other gifts and directions,

She desires her sister GOODWIN to take the children into ENGLAND, and to have care of them during their respective minorities.

On the 7th July, 1679, WM. MORETON, Dean of Christ's Church, was sworn before the judge of the Prerogative Court at Dublin, and administration of her will was on the day following granted forth of the said court to him.

It would appear that at the time of her death she had three sons living, namely, George, Benjamin, and Thomas; and that Thomas must have died a minor very shortly after his mother; as it would appear from the administration *de bonis non*, granted to Dr. MORETON, that only George and Benjamin, to whose use such administration was granted, were then survivors.

These two sons were sent in accordance with her will to England. George died s.p., but the time of his death is not exactly known, though in all probability during his minority; the only survivor of the PARRY family in the male line being her son BENJAMIN, who completed his education at St. John's College, Oxford.

This Dr. WM. MORETON, the executor, was elder son of Dr. EDWARD MORETON (or Morton) of Little Moreton, co. Chester, by Margaret, daughter of Sir Wm. Webb, kt., and niece of Archbishop Laud. WILLIAM MORETON was born in CHESTER, and baptized privately in 1641, in CHESTER CATHEDRAL, where his father was Prebendary. After receiving the Deanery of Christ Church, Dublin, he was elevated to the bishopric of Kildare, from whence he was soon afterwards translated to that of Meath. He was father of SIR WILLIAM MORETON, kt., Recorder of the City of London, who, with his wife, Dame Jane Moreton, daughter of John Lawton, of Lawton, Esq., was buried in what is called the Moreton Chapel in ASTBURY Church.

W. MONK GIBBON.

In Memoriam.

While the above article was in type, and awaiting publication in "THE SHEAF," intelligence reached us of the death of a frequent contributor to its pages, our own highly valued friend Dr. MONK GIBBON, of Dublin. The mournful event is thus briefly recorded in the obituary column of last week's *Chester Courant* :—

"On Sept. 29th, at the Cottage, Sandymount Avenue, Dublin, William Monk Gibbon, LL.D., aged 78."

Dr. MONK GIBBON was second son of Edward Acton Gibbon, of the Retreat, co. Wicklow, Esq. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where he in due course graduated B.A., M.A., and LL.D. On being called to the bar, he went the Leinster Circuit, and practised for very many years in the Admiralty Court, Dublin. He married, in 1832, Ann, daughter of William Boxwell, of Butlerstown Castle, co. Wexford, and has left issue three sons and one daughter. Of these, the first son, Edward Acton Gibbon, was born June 19, 1835, and married, March 4, 1875, Eliza Rebecca second daughter of Thomas and Mary Taylor, of the Chief Secretary's Office, Dublin. The second son, John George Gibbon, barrister-at-law, born 5th August, 1837, married, 19th August, 1863, Mary Elinor, eldest daughter of the same Thomas and Mary Taylor. The third son, William Monk Gibbon, born 14th December, 1838, married, 14th November, 1872, Margaret Usher Davis Goff, of Horetown, co. Wexford.

Along with the energetic pursuit of his profession for well-nigh half-a-century, Dr. MONK GIBBON united a warm love for historical and antiquarian reading, and was well versed in the Admiralty records of the sister country. An Irishman by birth, he had yet, by reason of family and property, strong CHESHIRE proclivities, and was always proud of his associations with the County Palatine, NESTON and its vicinity having throughout his long life had a special charm in his eyes. One evidence of this he gave a few years ago, when he compiled a history of the long connection between CHESHIRE and DUBLIN, which Paper he read before his brethren of the Chester Archaeological Society. He was also, as we have shown, an active contributor to

THE SHEAF, and that too in fields in which it will be all but impossible to find his successor. A man of true natural refinement and wide sympathies—a warm friend and a genial correspondent;—tolerant alike in religion and politics,—tender of others' opinions while never slack in maintaining his own,—just such an one has now departed from us in WILLIAM MONK GIBBON.

EDITOR.

[1852] A CHESTER CHORISTER.

A Shrewsbury paper of the time states that on February 2, 1803, died, aged 76, Mr. WILLIAM GITTINS, nearly fifty years a chorister in CHESTER Cathedral. His funeral was attended by his brother choristers, who, out of respect to his memory, sang the beautiful anthem composed by Dr. Boyce, "If we believe that Jesus died," &c.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

Queries.

[1853] LIVING DRAGONS IN CHESHIRE.

According to well-received tradition (and my authority for it when I was quite a juvenile was an old lady, herself a very dragon in temper, and who therefore ought to know), Cheshire was the original home of the English Dragon. She had, she confessed, never seen a live one herself, but her grandmother used to declare she had when she was a very little girl; and she had painted it to her, my informant, in all the brilliant colours and grotesqueness of form only to be found in the real reptile. It was a terror, she said, to the whole county :—it had devoured young maidens and little children by the score, and committed such depredations, that great rewards had been offered for its destruction, but without success, until somebody she didn't know ultimately attacked and killed it! And that was all she knew, except that the story was as true as gospel, for her old grandmother never told a fib,—which we may I think after this readily believe. I should like to know though, on some more tangible authority, whether any foundation exists for so apparently mythical a story?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[1854] TWO MINSHULL MARRIAGES IN THE 16TH CENTURY.

Can any reader of THE SHEAF identify the persons named in either of the following extracts from the Church Register of MALPAS Church?

1. "John Mynshull Esquier and Gertrude Minshull, commonly called Gartrude, were married at Malpas 8th day of Octo., by licence of Ordinarie, 1573."

2. "John Minshull and Mary Brereton were married 7th day of Feb. by licence, 1595."

CESTRIENSIS.

Replies.

[1855] THE STATUE OF A CHESTER BISHOP.

[Nos. 1734, 1852.—April 12, August 30, 1882]

In my former Reply I spoke only of the tradition relating to the *founding* of the Church and the supposed connection between that and the Statue, with the intention of giving further information, which a work on the Emblems of the Saints enables me now to do.

Several instances of the absurdity of the CHESTER legends have been given in these columns, each writer endeavouring to set them down in truthful language; and as to the present case, I think the following points will throw much light on the doubtful date of the founding of ST. JOHN'S. Personally I never considered the tradition as reliable, although naturally feeling that some evidence was supplied by the Statue; but I am able to point out that there is no connection at all between the Legend and the Figure.

There can be no doubt that the Statue is that of SAINT GILES, who has no personal association with CHESTER. He is usually represented with a crozier, and a hind fawning on him, with its head or fore-feet in his lap, and sometimes having its neck pierced with an arrow. A good example of the former occurs in stained glass at Sandringham Church, Norfolk; and in Callot's *Images*, the hind is by the saint's side, whose thigh is pierced by an arrow; other representations have the arrow in his breast.

The Statue at ST. JOHN'S is somewhat similar to the usual form: the hind stands to the left, and has its feet fawning on the saint's lap, whose left hand rests on the animal's neck. His robes are dilapidated, but the ornamental work thereon and particularly that on the mitre can be seen, and probably is of the 14th century. The right hand is uplifted; but being broken, I cannot judge whether it held the crozier, or if only in the position of blessing;—no arrow has been represented.

It becomes necessary at this point to refer to the life of ST. GILES, which is briefly described as follows:—

ST. GILES was by birth an Athenian of noble extraction; but his miracles and sanctity so attracted the notice of his countrymen, that to avoid the honour they paid to him he fled into France, where he lived in retirement as a hermit in a cave, and was supported by the milk of a hind, which fed in the neighbouring forests. He is said to have been discovered in his retirement by a King of France, who, when hunting, chased the hind to his hermitage, where it sought refuge at his feet. The King afterwards built a monastery upon the site of his hermitage, and made ST. GILES the first abbot. From this occurrence the emblem of the saint derives its origin. ST. GILES is esteemed the patron of cripples, from his refusing to be cured of an accidental

lameness, in order that he might be enabled to mortify himself more completely. ST. GILES', CRIPPLEGATE, is dedicated to this saint, and before the Conquest that neighbourhood was a rendezvous for cripples and beggars, who were accustomed to solicit charity at this entrance of London. Both in Oxford, Cambridge, and many other places, a church *at the outskirts of the town* is found, dedicated to this saint, the situation having reference to his supposed love of solitude.

Anyone intimate with the Church of ST. JOHN'S will readily admit the great similarity between the two legends; and it seems very probable that the later has been founded upon the other and older to suit local purposes.

Viewed together, I am convinced that HENRY BRADSHAW, knowing this old tradition relating to ST. GILES, and seeing his Statue at ST. JOHN'S, thought fit to adapt it to suit his very romantic mind, which certainly must have done much to create the feelings of awe in the minds of a mediæval congregation. It is noteworthy that most of the Churches dedicated to ST. GILES are on the outskirts of the town, to which our old edifice of ST. JOHN'S gives no exception.

So far with regard to the Statue, but I should, at this opportune time, like to insert a query which I months ago intended to submit. If so much is to be credited to the reputed founders of the seventh century, how would the tradition of ST. GILES act upon the mind of KING ÆTHELRED, for the occurrence took place during his lifetime, the saint being alive until A.D. 725? Another point arises in the thought that possibly the Church first received patronage from ST. GILES, but had afterwards that of ST. JOHN. If not, why is some of the property now in the Parish of St. John mentioned in the public rate-papers as being in the "Parish or Place of St. Giles"?

What was the case with Cripple-gate, London, is equally the case in our ancient city; for we have our "Hospital of ST. GILES"—or rather had—on the eastern confines of the city, to which all the Lepers were sent. This Hospital was founded by RANDLE BLUNDEVILLE, EARL OF CHESTER; but during the Civil War it shared the same fate as did many other public buildings, and the site remains shorn of all evidence of its past existence. The Lepers' graveyard, however, has been until recently continued as a burial ground; but is now in a dilapidated and disgraceful state,—a fit example for the watchful eye of "the Society for Protecting such Resting-places of the Dead."

Since my last notes were sent, the Statue has been fixed in the niche above the new Porch, where it may possibly have a permanent position; although I read that some one, with questionable judgment, has suggested its removal, and the placing of a *new statue* in its stead! The authorities of ST. JOHN'S may, I feel sure, be trusted to do no such thing!

JOHN HEWITT.

OCTOBER 25, 1882.

Original Documents.

[1856] A CHESHIRE BOY'S LETTER FROM OXFORD.

It is not often that one gets a peep, however slight, into undergraduate life at the Universities, so far back, at any rate, as the 17th century. The CAMBRIDGE and OXFORD of those days were as different in many ways from the two centres of learning of our own, as were the stripling frequenters of "the high" in James' reign from the "light blue" representatives of to-day. But it is not with them and their generous rivalries afloat or afield, nor yet in the keener competitions of "the schools," that I shall busy myself in this article. I have just been overhauling the deed-chest of the DODS of EDGE, and have come upon a Cheshire under-grad's letter to his father, Sir EDWARD DOD, of EDGE, then plain Mr. EDWARD DOD, Baron of the Exchequer at CHESTER.

The boy Oxonian, THOMAS DOD's, letter is short and sweet,—wanting perhaps in the crispness and piquancy of similar compositions apt in our times to emanate from collegiate pens, but still carrying with it the true ring of filial love and respect not always so marked or so real in this nineteenth century. This is the burden of it:—

"Most deare father, haneing at this time noe convenient a messenger as Ince, of Eccleston, I coulde not chuse but to let you heare from mee. I thanke god I my selfe and all our friends heere in Oxon are in good health. my cozen Thornelye remembereth his loue vnto you, hartily desiringe you to bee his brothers frend as you haue beene heretofore. See rememberinge my humble duty vnto your self and vnto my deere mother, my com'endations vnto my brother and sister, and all the rest of my cozens, I rest

your most obedient sonne,

Exon Coll: THO: DOD.

March 19, 1620."

Addressed outside—

"To his very louing father
Mr. Edward Dod, esquire,
at his house at Edge, giue these
with speede."

Our young Oxonian was at the date of his letter but 16 years old, having been baptized at MALPAS on the 7th of September, 1604. I presume he finally graduated at Oxford. Certainly he married, about 1630, Anne, daughter of Edward Holland, of Denton, co. Lancaster, esq., by whom he left several children; and through them the line of the DODS of EDGE has been perpetuated (latterly through females) to the present hour, the Rev. CHARLES WOLLEY-DOD, now of Edge Hall, being their honoured representative.

Two or three years after attaining his majority, THOMAS DOD, as I gather from the EDGE correspondence, had somewhat overrun the allowance granted him by his father, the Baron, and had perhaps been raising money elsewhere. The letter now to be printed would seem to indicate at all events that his credit was at the time (1627) rather under impeachment. His correspondent, CHRISTOPHER BLEASE, was in partnership with ROBERT BLEASE, his brother, as a mercer, in Eastgate Row, CHESTER; and the mercers and goldsmiths of those days acted in country towns as a species of minor bankers, to whom the young gentry and merchants usually resorted, when money was scarce in the family exchequer or business coffer. I fancy THOMAS DOD was one of these; but the letter itself shall be given in full here, that my readers may form their own conclusions:—

"Mr. Dodd,

I vaderstand you tooke som vnkindnes at me about the money left with me by my Cosin Gregg, but ther was noe Cause geuen by me that you should. I designed not to haue medled w'th that money, for it is but to my trowble and Charge, and lykewyse to the trowbl of my good frend Mr. Awbrie; but being earnestly intreated by my Cosine Gregg, did Receive it, and I should shew my self eyther vnwyse or distrought to p't w'th the money, Contrary to his order and my p'misse.

See now Mr. Awbrie will hav the money in Redienes according to these letters from my Cosin Gregg; yet still both Mr. Awbrie and my self is limited not to parte w'th it vnles the bond may be deliu'd vpp wherein he is bond with your father. you might well p'ceave when you with my Cosin Robert Gregg was w'th me, that it was not in me to deliu' you the money eyther heer or ther, els I p'test I would Rather hane deliu'd it back in Chester than be trowbled forthier about it.

Mr. Awbrie will deliu' you a letter from my Cosin Gregg, and I willed him to shew you Mr. Parkinson's letter befor it be deliu'd. I hope the 80l. will be paid you to serue your toorne. See hoping you wilbe well satisfied, and take noe vnkyndnes at me till I geene you iust Cause, w'ch I hope shalbe never, doe with my kynd Coomendac'ons Rest,

Your wor's loving frend,

CHRISTOPHER BLEASE.

Chester, 25th April, 1627.

if you please to pay any more for costs or damage then this 80l., you may forsee y't my Cosin Greggs bond be deliu'd vpp to Mr. Awbrie and his money may be paid, els you see his letter is not to p't w'th it.

I did not denye but that the money was left w'th me, but that I Could not p't w'th it without my Cosin Greggs direction."

Addressed on back,—

"To the wor'll his verie loving frende,
Mr. THOMAS DODD, att london."

How this little note of hand business was settled I know not, but most likely to the satisfaction of both father and son, of the careful Chester mercer, and his London business friend, Mr. Awbric. Anyway, as already stated, the young squire married shortly after, and continued the line of a family which has nestled for centuries at the "Edge" of the BICKERTON Hills.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[1857] DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON'S VISIT TO WALES.

[Continued from No 1759.]

We resume the thread of the great Doctor's narrative, just at the point where he had crossed the threshold from CHESTER into the Principality, in 1774.

"July 28. We entered WALES, dined at MOLD, and came to LLEWENY [the residence of ROBERT COTTON, Esq., Mrs. Thrale's cousin german, and father of Field Marshal Lord VISCOUNT COMBERMERE. The Cheshire hero himself was at that time just two years old].

29. We were at LLEWENY. In the lawn at Llewenny is a spring of fine water, which rises above the surface into a stone basin, from which it runs to waste, in a continual stream, through a pipe. There are very large trees. The Hall at Llewenny is forty feet long, and twenty-eight broad. The Gallery one hundred and twenty feet long, all paved. The Library forty-two feet long, and twenty-eight broad. The Dining-parlour's thirty-six feet long, and twenty-six broad. It is partly sashed, and partly has casements.

30. We went to *Bach-y-Graig*, where we found an old house, built 1567, in an uncommon and incommodious form. My Mistress [JOHNSON's familiar epithet for Mrs. THRALE] chattered about cleaning, but I prevailed on her to go to the top. The floors have been stolen: the windows are stopped. The house was less than I seemed to expect. The river *Clwyd* is a brook, with a bridge of one arch, about one-third of a mile [distant]. The woods have many trees, generally young, but some, which seem to decay, and have been lopped.

The house never had a garden. The addition of another story would make an useful house, but it cannot be great. Some buildings which *Clough* [Sir Richard, the founder] intended for warehouses, would make store-chambers and servants' rooms. The ground seems to be good. I wish it well. [Bach-y-Graig had been the residence of Mrs. Thrale's ancestors for several generations, but her father did not live there, and it fell into decay].

31. We went to church at ST. ASAPH. The Cathedral, though not large, has something of dignity and grandeur. The cross aisle is very short. It has scarcely any monuments. The Quire has, I

think, thirty two stalls of antique workmanship. On the backs were *Canonicus, Prebend, Cancellarius, Thesaurarius, Precentor*. The constitution I do not know, but it has all the usual titles and dignities. The service was sung only in the Psalms and Hymns.

The Bishop [Dr. Shipley, father to the afterwards somewhat litigious Dean of St. Asaph], was very civil. We went to his palace, which is but mean. They have a library, and design a room. Here lived [Bishop William] Lloyd [who died Bishop of Worcester in 1717, aged 91] and Dodwell, [both of them great friends to the Revolution of 1688].

August 1. We visited DENBIGH, and the remains of its Castle. The town consists of one main street, and some that cross it, which I have not seen. The chief street ascends with a quick rise for a great length; the houses are built, some with rough stone, some with brick, and a few of timber.

The Castle, with its whole enclosure, has been a prodigious pile: it is now so ruined, that the form of the inhabited part cannot easily be traced. There are, as in all old buildings, said to be extensive vaults, which the ruins of the upper works cover and conceal, but into which boys sometimes find a way. To clear old passages, and trace the whole of what remains, would require much labour and expense. We saw a Church, which was once the Chapel of the Castle, but is used by the Town: it is dedicated to *St. Hilary*, and has an income of about

At a small distance is the ruin of a Church said to have been begun by the great Earl of Leicester, and left unfinished at his death. One side, and I think the east end, are yet standing. There was a stone in the wall, over the door-way, which it was said would fall and crush the best scholar in the diocese. One Price would not pass under it [it was said, at any price]. They have taken it down. We then saw the Chapel of Llewenny, founded by one of the Salusburys; it is very complete: the monumental stones lie in the ground. A chimney has been added to it, but it is otherwise not much injured, and might be easily repaired. We went to the parish church of DENBIGH, which being near a mile from the town is only used when the parish officers are chosen. In the church is a bas-relief of Lloyd [Humphrey Lloyd] the antiquary, who was before Camden. He is kneeling at his prayers. In the Chapel on Sundays, the service is read thrice, the second time only in English, the first and third in Welsh. The Bishop came to survey the Castle, and visited likewise *St. Hilary's* Chapel, which is that which the town uses.

Aug. 2. We went to DYMERCHION Church, where the old clerk acknowledged his Mistress. It is the parish church of Bach-y-Graig [and is] a mean fabric: Mr. Salusbury [Mrs. Thrale's father] was buried in it. As we rode by, I looked at the house again.

We saw LLANERCH, a house not mean, with a small park very well watered. There was an avenue of oaks, which, in a foolish compliance with the

present mode, has been out down: a few are yet standing. The owner's name is DAVIES. The way lay through pleasant lanes, and overlooked a region beautifully diversified with trees and grass.

At DYMERCHION church there is English service only once a month: this is about twenty miles from the English border. The old Clerk had great appearance of joy at the sight of his Mistress, and foolishly said that "he was now willing to die." He had only a crown given him by my Mistress.

3. We went in the Coach to HOLYWELL, a market town, neither very small nor mean. The spring called *Winifred's Well* is very clear, and so copious, that it yields one hundred tuns of water in a minute. It is all at once a very great stream which within perhaps thirty yards of its eruption turns a mill, and in a course of two miles eighteen mills more. In descent it is very quick, and then falls into the sea. The bath is completely and indecently open: a woman bathed while we all looked on.

We will here leave the Doctor and Mrs. Thrale in the midst of their moralizings: and in another chapter may very likely bring the Lexicographer's Welsh tour to a close.

EDITOR.

Queries.

[1858] CHESHIRE HERALDIC BANNERS.

Aforetime, say two, three, or more centuries ago, it was the custom to hang up the banners of knights and soldiers over their tombs in the older Churches of our county. Very often they were the very pennons carried by their owners in the field; and where that was not practicable, the services of the local heralds were brought into requisition in order to do fitting honour to the deceased. Many of these tattered banners were remaining in the churches even within living memory,—are there any still so existing, and over whose tombs?

Stockport.

MARY O. LATRY.

Replies.

[1859] PATERNOSTER PARDONS.

[No. 1671.—Jan. 18, 1882.]

Dr. BRUSHFIELD's Query appeared whilst I was engaged compiling a description of the MONUMENTAL BRASSES of CHESHIRE, and among them, I am pleased to say, is the one he refers to.

The Brass is in the Rivers Chapel at St. Michael's Church, MACCLESFIELD, and the following works mention or describe it:—

"*London Mag.*: 1750, p. 440; J. Burrough's *View of Popery*, 1735, pp. 152—154; *Gent's Mag.*, vol. lxi. 1794, pt. ii., p. 980; *Anastasio Camb.*, 1848; *Haines, Manual*, part i., pp. 101—104; beside the various histories of the County."

It is in memory of ROGER DE LEEGH, and in its original state bore the effigies of himself and his wife, with their six sons and six daughters.

The inscription at bottom runs as follows:—

"Orate p' a'i'abs' Rogeri legh et Elizabeth ux'is sue qui quid'm Rogerus obiit iiii'o die Nouembris A'o d'ni m'o v'o vj'o, Elizabeth vero obiit v'o die Octobris A'o d'ni m'o, cccclxxxix'o quor' a'i'abs' p'picietur de'."

This I copy from a lithograph by Mr. Hawkes Smith, Birmingham; and this being more modern than any other description I can find, I presume the reading here given to be correct—having collated it here and there with the version given by MR. EARWAKER, in his *East Cheshire*, vol. ij., p. 448. The contractions are rather numerous, but can easily be understood.

The figures were above this inscription, the husband and sons kneeling on the dexter, and the wife and daughters on the sinister side, but these latter have long been missing or lost. Roger Legh, in this curious monument, wears a large mantle, with bell sleeves, open wide at the wrists, the collar and lining being of fur.

From the father's mouth flows an inscription on a scroll:—

"a dampnaco'e p'petua lib'a nos d'ne."

"From eternal death deliver us, O Lord."

The females I cannot describe; but the widow of ARCHDEACON ROGERS, on her monument formerly at ECCLESTON, had a similar roll, defaced however when HANSHALL wrote (1817), who gives it thus:—

"In die iudicii lib'a nos d'ne."

"In the day of judgment deliver us, O Lord!"

It is between the husband and wife that the inscription mentioned by Dr. BRUSHFIELD occurs: it occupies a plate nearly square, and runs as follows:—

The p'don for say
ing of b paternost'
& b aues and a cred
is xxi thousand
yeres and xxi
dayes of pardon.

Above this is a small quadrangular brass with a Pope kneeling before an altar, on which are an open book, leaning against the side wall of the altar, and a chalice of ordinary design. Above the altar is shown a fresco representing the rising from the tomb of Our Lord, who has His hands uplifted, the palms shewing the

"print of the nails," and His side is pierced. A small window is shewn on the right, with small quarry glazing.

Haines, in his *Monumental Brasses*, says: "Although legendary incidents in the lives of saints are occasionally found on foreign brasses, yet one instance only has been observed in this country, at MACCLESFIELD. . . . This engraving is considered by Mr. Waller to refer to a passage in the life of St. Gregory, called St. Gregory's Mass."—See his article, *Journal Brit. Archaeological Association*, vol. v., p. 256.

From this it will be seen that the brass is unique in England; and as such, in addition to its local interest, is worthy of special care.

What its present state is I cannot say,—perhaps some MACCLESFIELD friend may inform us,—but when complete it must have presented a very fine effect.

J. HEWITT.

[1860] THE HIGHEST POINT IN CHESTER.

[No. 1772.—June 7, 1882]

Whilst pointing out the highest portion of our city, it may not be out of place to include the four Gates, which will shew the various gradients of the principal streets. I have taken the figures from the Ordnance Survey Plans, on which the altitudes are given in feet above the approximate mean water at Liverpool.

The Bench-mark on ST. PETER'S at the CROSS is 85.1, at the NORTHGATE 104.8, EASTGATE 75.5, at the WATERGATE 39.0, and the BRIDGEGATE 31.4. Therefore the NORTHGATE is the highest portion of this city; and so far as the city itself is concerned, that portion next the BRIDGEGATE the lowest. It will be seen that only Northgate-street rises from the Cross, the others falling considerably towards the Gates.

Foregate-street falls from 75.5 to 63.2, which is the height at the Bars, Boughton; rising therefrom to the junction of Tarvin and Christleton Roads, where a height of 80.8 is reached. J. H.

[1861] HAWARDEN WILLS OFFICE.

[No. 1810.—August 2, 1882.]

"H. S. A." is rather behind the times. *All* peculiars were abolished years ago, and the Hawarden testamentary records are, no doubt, in the custody of the Registrar of the Court of Probate for the district in which Hawarden is situate, i.e., I presume, St. Asaph.

Kimbolton.

B. H. B.

[1862] HOLT, CO. DENBIGH.

[No. 1835.—September 13, 1882.]

The old steps have been for the last few years surmounted by a *Gas pillar*, which gives them a most outrageous and incongruous appearance. The old quadrangular pointed shaft which formerly occupied the place of the gas pillar, now lies neglected near the

base of the steps,—a standing protest against the peculiar taste of the Burgesses of HOLT. I question very much if it ever bore a cross proper; I saw it only yesterday, and could discover no traces of it having done so. It is a mere monolith of red sandstone, with a pointed apex, and is apparently very old. The steps were some years back renovated and reset, and I think the old shaft too was refurbished up. If Mr. HEWITT visits HOLT again, he will find what I have stated to be correct.

I would at the same time direct his attention to an old house at the Wrexham end of the borough,—it bears a monogram T. P. E. (Peet?) 1683, on a shield surmounted by an ivy-crowned arch, and said to be the oldest house in HOLT, and to have been in existence when the Castle was besieged, though if the date be correct this can hardly be true.

Wrexham.

LANDWOR.

NOVEMBER 8, 1882.

Original Documents.

[1863] POPISH RECUSANTS AT CHESTER.

The accompanying may, perhaps, be accepted by you as a contribution to your series of Original Documents. My transcript is from the Letter itself, which is preserved in State Papers, Domestic, vol. iii., of James I., and number 8 in that volume. It is thus addressed on the outside, and the seal, with armorial bearings, is perfect:—

"For his Majesty's affairs.

To the right honourable the ll's and others of his majesty's most honourable Privy Council.

CHESTER, the 4th day, at 3 in the afternoon.

haste.

haste.

haste."

"Whereas (Right Honourable), about the xxth of the last month, I caused two persons, the one named John Penckerell, and the other Thomas Penckerell, to be apprehended; who being strangers in these parts and travelling in obscure manner, specially at these times; having received directions from your lordships for apprehension of some traitorous conspirators, I conceived a suspicion of their loyalty and affection to His Majesty and the State; and the rather because they do upon their examinations confess themselves to be recusants, the one having travelled in Spain, and the other a long time prisoner in England, for religion, as he alledged. Whereupon I committed him to prison, and did certify my L. CARYLL of my proceedings therein, together with their examinations. And

forasmuch as they remain prisoners still, in great want as it seemeth, having no means to relieve them, I have thought good to write unto your ll's that you would please the same to direct your pleasures what is further to be done in this behalf; and so I do most humbly commit your ll's to the tuition of Almighty God. CHESTER, the 4th of August, 1603.

Your ll's humbly to be commanded,
HU. GLASEOUR, Mayor."

The Mayor of the present day would have enough to do, I think, if he concerned himself about all those "travelling in obscure manner," who, day by day, all the year round, are to be seen at the General Railway Station of your city. Your prisons would be too small to hold them all! But *tempora mutantur*.

Kimbolton.

B. H. B.

Notes.

[1864] GOD'S PROVIDENCE HOUSE, CHESTER.

There is no house in the city of CHESTER that excites the attention of strangers and tourists more than the old one in WATERGATE STREET, which contains on the beam, supporting the front portion of the house above the Row, the inscribed line:—"GOD'S PROVIDENCE IS MINE INHERITANCE." This house was restored, rebuilt indeed, for its then and still owner, Alderman ROBERT GREGG, about 21 years ago. The late Mr. JAMES HARRISON was the architect employed; who in the most praiseworthy manner retained all its original features, even to, I believe, the beam containing the inscription. Originally, the date 1652 was to be seen on the beam above what would be reckoned, from the street, as the second-floor window.

The motto, according to HEMINGWAY (*History of Chester*, vol. ii., p. 5), was "said to have been inscribed by the occupier, as a grateful memorial, after escaping the Plague which had visited almost every other dwelling." But the only record of any devastating Plague that occurred about that period was the one that appeared in 1647 (CHESHIRE SHEAF, vol. i., pp. 279, 306, 569), five years before the date on the beam. As this is all the information I have been able to glean from any of the local histories, I have ventured to make the following remarks, with the hope that some of your correspondents may throw some further light on the subject.

RICHARD BOYLE was created EARL OF CORK in 1620—"the great Earl," as he was called,—and it was in consideration of such a series of successes as his life was attended with, that he chose that motto—"God's Providence is my inheritance," and which the family still retain (*vide* a Letter from the Rev. Joseph Boyse, dated 1695, in Thoresby's *Correspondence*, vol. i., p.

255). His wife, LADY CORK, died in 1629, and was buried in St. Patriok's Cathedral, Dublin, and on her monument was inscribed—"God's Providence is our inheritance." The line was therefore adopted by one of the leading men of the day, thirty-two years before it appeared on the house in WATERGATE STREET.

The practice of inscribing sentences, often of a religious character, over external doorways, windows, &c., and even on inner walls, was common in the 16th and 17th centuries in England, as well as on the Continent generally. We have no record as to whether the Earl of Cork originated the sentence, or whether he adopted it from some other source. That this latter is by no means improbable would appear from the following passage in Collinson's *Somersetshire* (vol. ii., p. 31):—"Over the door of three alms-houses at Minehead, Somersetshire, is an inscription stating that 'Robert Quirok built this house Anno 1630, &c.,"' and terminating thus:—

"God's Providence
Is my Inheritance, R. Q."

This was only ten years after the Earl had been raised to the peerage. He, however, according to Thoresby (*Diary*, vol. 1, p. 429) "used to inscribe in the palaces he built," the same motto; so that R. Q. may after all have copied from the Earl. Its introduction into CHESTER, it is evident, did not take place until long after its employment elsewhere, and at a time when it must have been well known; it is therefore fair to infer that the occupier of the WATERGATE-STREET house was not the author of the motto, but that he had copied it. Could it be proved he had been in the Earl's service, this would have accounted for it. That he inscribed it as a memorial of preservation from the Plague appears to me to be open to grave doubt; it seems to me more probable that he only followed a prevailing custom of the period in which he lived.

In BATENHAM's etching of the house, executed in 1816, the figures of three upright anchors appear in the space between the window and the inscribed beam. These had been removed, if I remember right, long before the alterations that took place in 1861. Were they the arms of any local family?

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Budleigh Salterton, Devon.

P.S.—In the *Antiquarian Chronicle*, published by Fennell, there is in the first number, published in June last, a list of mottoes from Posy Rings at p. 13, and amongst them is the following with the date:—

"God's Providence is our Inheritance."—1711.

T. N. B.

[1865] ROMAN CEMETERY AT CHESTER.

Few persons who have visited the ROODEYE could fail to notice some remains of massive masonry commencing from near the steps, leading from BLACK FRIARS on to the Racecourse, and running parallel

with the mediæval rampart for a short distance southwards. These are, in fact, the foundations of the Roman City Wall; but it is not so generally known that the bank of earth enclosed between is a portion of one of the principal intra-mural burial places of the classic colonists of *Deva*. Here from time to time have their unornamented remains been brought to light; and, indeed, it was only last summer that I had the pleasure of finding two additional interments upon this very site. The opinion of some of our local Antiquaries is that the city in Roman times did not extend much further south of this spot; but that the Walls turned off here at right angles, and ran in a line eastwards. This course may be described as somewhere through the ground now occupied by ST. BRIDGET'S RECTORY, through CUPPIN and PEPPER Streets: that there they united again and formed the S.E. angle at the NEWGATE; and that the WALLS which now include the CASTLE and south of the city did not exist until the Saxon era. The correctness of this theory has been questioned; but the foundations mentioned certainly do take a sweep towards the WALLS—at this presumed S.W. angle of the mural camp!

1.—The first interment we are acquainted with occurred near here in the ground under this, the south, end of the DEE STANDS. I cannot furnish particulars, but have been told that a small, though perfect, Samian-ware vessel now in the collection of Mr. Fredk. Potts was taken from this tomb.

2.—In repairing the Steps above-mentioned several years ago, the bones of a young person were found in the ground beneath: indeed the grave was described to me as being partly situated in an oblique position, and under the WALLS; also that a Roman coin (second brass I think) had been deposited with the body. Mr. SHEUBSOLE possesses the lower jawbone of the skeleton.

3.—At the same spot, only lower down the bank, a third grave was uncovered; but in this case the remains were surrounded by a coffin-like cist composed of small squared pieces of red sandstone.

4.—The next to be noticed was found on the top of this bank in 1865, between the first and second buttresses, counting from the steps referred to. It lay at about a foot below the surface, and was composed of the ordinary red clay Roman roofing tiles (*tegulae*). A silver *denarius* of the Emperor OTHO accompanied the skeleton, which was almost entire, and in its original position.

5.—Without the Roman city, yet at no great distance from this cemetery, an interment was met with which may be considered as one of the most interesting yet discovered at CHESTER; from the circumstance that a head-stone was disinterred at the same time, which there is every reason to believe once marked the grave. This occurred in June, 1874, when a cutting was made across the ROODEYE, in order to

form the intercepting sewer from Boughton, and running under the County Gaol. I shall here give one or two quotations from the description of Mr. G. W. SHEUBSOLE, who was present soon after its discovery:—

"The excavation commenced near the Castle . . . along the south face of the little Roodee. On passing the angle of the Walls, clay and rock were found, and when the Grosvenor Bridge (embankment) was reached, tunnelling through rock was resorted to. Reaching the Roodee proper, an open cutting was begun, and continued across to the Watergate. Soon after passing the Grosvenor Bridge embankment the workmen came upon a large flat stone, which proved to have an inscription of the Roman age."

This slab, formed of the ordinary red sandstone of the district, is inscribed in perfectly legible characters—

D. M.

F. L. CALLIMOR

PHI. VIX. AN. XXXXI.

ET. SERAPIONT. VIX.

ANN. III. M. VI. T. HE. SA.

EVS. FRATRI. ET. FILIO.

F. C.

Which has been thus translated by MR. HUGHES,—

"To the divine shades of FLAVIUS LUCIUS CALLIMORPHUS, who lived 42 years, and to SERAPION, who lived 3 years and 6 months. THESE caused this to be erected to her Brother and his Son."

(To be completed in our next.)

Parkgate-road.

F. H. W.

[1866] SWORD OF STATE OF THE EARL OF
CHESTER.

Many years ago I saw in the British Museum a "State Sword" of the EARL OF CHESTER. I concluded at that time that this Sword must have belonged to HUGH LUPUS, first EARL OF CHESTER, nephew of the Conqueror and ancestor of the DUKE OF WESTMINSTER. Since then I have made many attempts to again discover this relic, and have only lately succeeded: so, as I believe that everything connected with the county of CHESTER is of interest to the readers of "THE SHEAF," I have the pleasure of sending you a description and a drawing of this Sword.

The blade is of rapier form—straight, flat, pointed,—with slight swell along the central line. It is five feet in length, with a width of three inches at its union with the guard. The length of the hilt is fifteen inches; of the guard, from tip to tip, sixteen inches. These dimensions, I may remark, are estimated, but are very nearly correct. The hilt has upon its centre, and placed transversely, "three lions passant" in red. The pommel has a red cross. The inscription placed upon it by the Museum Authorities is, I notice, as follows:—

"State Sword of
EDWARD PRINCE OF WALES
(afterwards EDWARD THE FIFTH)
as EARL OF CHESTER.
date from 1475 to 1483."

The question of interest is—Was this Sword handed down from HUGH LUPUS to the First Prince of Wales, who received the title of EARL OF CHESTER? That HUGH LUPUS possessed a State Sword, the charter of the Conqueror, as given by HENRY BRADSHAW, Monk of CHESTER, very clearly shows:—

"The King gave to him for his inheritance
The county of Chester with its appurtenance—
By victory to win the aforesaid Earldom,
Freely to govern it by conquest right;
Made a sure charter to him and his succession,
By the sword of dignity to hold it with might,
And call a Parliament at his will and sight;
To order his subjects after true justice,
As a potent prince, and statutes to devise."

The Sword here is called the "Sword of Dignity," regarded as equivalent to "Sword of State." A. B.

[The heraldry of this Sword needs further elucidation. EDITOR.]

Queries.

[1867] THE FOWLAKS, CHESTER.

In some deeds relating to property in CHESTER that has recently changed hands, there was reference made to an old conveyance, dated a couple of centuries ago, of a pasture or field then called the *Fowlaks*, on the confines of the city. I cannot find any such pasture named on the only large-sized map accessible to me; but that is not so much to be wondered at, I suppose, for a lady living so far away from old CHESTER. Can you obtain for me and the readers of THE SHEAF some clue as to the locality?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

Replies.

[1868] PATERNOSTER PARDONS.

[Nos. 1671, 1859.—Jan. 18, Oct. 25, 1882.]

If Mr. J. HEWITT had personally referred to the account of ROGER LEGH's brass, as given in *East Cheshire*, all the questions he asks would have been found there answered. Thus he says, he "cannot describe the female figures," yet I have given a representation of them, based on an old drawing in the British Museum, and also describe them fully. The brass is now fixed in a wooden frame, on the wall of the

SAVAGE Chapel in MACCLESFIELD church, and is well cared for.

The description of our Lord rising out of the tomb is not quite accurate, as the picture represents a vision, in which Pope Gregory is said to have had a manifestation of the doctrine of the "real presence," seeing our Lord's body appear out of the consecrated bread.

Although this is the only brass which bears this representation, it has been found elsewhere carved in stone, and in a mural painting. These instances I have given in a note on page 447, vol. ij. of *East Cheshire*.

I don't know when Mr. Hawkes Smith's lithograph appeared; but if it is the same as another Birmingham one which I have, it appeared many years ago, whilst the drawing in *East Cheshire* appeared in 1880. The latter was taken from a very careful rubbing.

Pensarn.

J. P. EARWAKER.

[1869] DR. EDWARD WOLLEY.

[No. 1836.—September 13, 1882.]

I beg to offer to your correspondent the following account of one of his Border Worthies:—

EDWARD WOLLEY, a native of Shrewsbury, and belonging to a respectable family, was educated at the royal school there, and entered St. John's College in 1622. It would appear that he held some ecclesiastical appointment before the breaking out of the War. He said that he was deprived and sequestered from his means before the battle of Edge Hill, and had two houses plundered. He betook himself to Oxford, and became one of the cavalier parsons. There in 1642 he was made D.D.; "neo immerito sane," says the antiquary, "multa enim fecit tulitque pro rege, pro ecclesia, pro libertate et legibus." Baker seems to infer that he was an actual combatant in the strife. When recapitulating his sufferings and exploits, WOLLEY claimed that "hee had much advanced his Majesties Service in the Wars, and hazarded his person on all occasions." I have a copy of his *Loyalty amongst Rebels*, which was printed at "the Crown" in St. Paul's Churchyard, 1662. It was dedicated to John Baron Grenville, whom Wolley had known from his tender years, and who had received severe wounds at the battle of Newbury. After the decline of the Royal cause Dr. WOLLEY followed Prince Charles to the Continent, and "endured great misery." He was banished ten years altogether from "his wife and children and his country." Charles I. gave him some important promotion by patents, one of them being to the Wardenship of Manchester, and another to the rich Rectory of Croston, Lancashire, both worth £1,400 per ann.; but these posts he never possessed. He kept up the feeling of loyalty among the exiles by his writings. One of his pieces, a parallel between Charles II. and Louis XIV., was printed in 1654, 1659, and 1662. At the Restoration Wolley appears to have taken a foremost place in the crowd of benefice hunters. He actually obtained from Charles II.

the nomination to the Wardenship of Manchester, and advanced his claims to that post and to Croston Rectory; but, through the intercession of the Earl of Manchester, Heyrick, who had at first refused to subscribe to the Bartholomew Act, was confirmed in the Wardenship by an "act of grace" on the part of the king. A little while subsequently Dr. Wolley applied for the Deanery of Lichfield and Coventry; but that preferment was bestowed on Dr. Paul, 26th January, 1660-1. Meanwhile Wolley entertained hopes of receiving one of the lesser bishoprics, as he was a favourite with the King. As to the patronage of the vicarage of Croston, the right of presentation was occasionally exercised by the Crown; but soon after the Restoration Dr. WALTON, Bishop of CHESTER, successfully begged for the advowson for himself and successors when it should become void. In a petition in Sept., 1660, WOLLEY asked the King to bestow upon him some dignity — to "reflect on his great service and sufferings"—and "to grant unto him the bishopric of Coventry and Lichfield, Hereford, or Bristol, or Peterborough." The sees here "humbly" indicated passed into the hands of other recipients.

Stretford.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

[1870] LONG HOLDING OF A CHESHIRE FARM.

[No. 1846.—Sept. 27, 1882.]

In my holiday rambles quite recently, I casually entered the church of BACKFORD. I think the accompanying will prove satisfactory to J. C. BOND, as shewing that other old CHESHIRE families have resided upon the same farm for lengthy periods. The tablet on the wall is to this effect:—

"GEORGE DENSON, 2nd son of SAM'L and MARTHA DENSON, Chapel House, WERVIN; which Farm the family occupied from 1422 to February, 1849, when GEORGE Denson removed to PICTON HALL, in this county, and died there November 6th, 1875, aged 64, and was interred near the Chancel Door. His Father and Mother were interred near a Vault inside the Church, the Church and Churchyard of BACKFORD having been the Burial place of the DENSONS of WERVIN from time immemorial."

So much for this; and it would be pleasing to read more about such families as have lived upon and farmed good estates in Cheshire for three or more centuries.

Eccleston.

JNO. LETFIELD.

NOVEMBER 22, 1882.

Original Documents.

[1871] DEPUTY LIEUTENANTS OF CHESHIRE, 1665.

The utter collapse of the COMMONWEALTH and all that belonged to it, when the national regard for royalty and episcopacy asserted itself in one resistless wave a

the RESTORATION, left a great deal to be done, and not a little to undo, by the government of CHARLES THE SECOND. Just as the ROYALISTS had been deprived of power on the triumph of CROMWELL, so, when MONK and his confederates had once safely replaced the crown on the King's head, countless were the changes that were rendered necessary when the STUARTS got their own again. And naturally, the heads of the old regime, those who had lost homes and fortune in their loyalty to the Throne, now found themselves and their party altogether in the ascendant. Our CHESTER City Records furnish ample testimony of this; and similar evidences in those of the County tell the same one-sided and then popular tale.

We present to-day a copy of the Commission issued by CHARLES, EARL OF DERBY, in 1665, appointing his Deputy Lieutenants to assist him in the reconstruction of the Palatinate on the Royalist basis. It comes to us from our friend MR. J. P. EARWAKER; who has entitled himself to the gratitude of CHESHIRE men for his learned and exhaustive *History of East Cheshire*, one of the most richly illustrated works ever produced for this or any other County. The document runs literally as follows, and has never before, we believe, found its way to the press:—

[EDITOR.

"To all to whom these presents shall come,—I, CHARLES, EARLE OF DERBY, Lord Stanley and Strange of Knocken, Baron of Weeton, Viscount Kinton, Lord Mohun, Burnell Bassett and Lacy, Lord Lieutenant of the Counties pallatine of LANCASTER and CHESTER and the City of CHESTER and the County of the same, Chamberlain of CHESHIRE and FFLLINTSHIRE, Vice Admirall of Lancashire and Cheshire, Lord of Man and the Isles, &c., sendeth Greeting. Whereas the KINGS most Excellent Maiestie, according to the Act of Parliament for ordering the forces in the severall Counties of this Kingdom, hath by Commission under the Great Seale of England nominated and appointed me, the said CHARLES, Earle of DERBY, his Lieutenant for and in the County of Chester, and for and in the Cities, Burroughs, Liberties, corporated and priviledged places, and other places whatsoever within the same County or the liberties or precincts thereof; and by vertue of the said Act of Parliament and Commission hath Authorised me, the said Charles, Earle of Derby, to Act, doe, Execute, and perform all and every thing and things in and by the same Act declared, enacted, or contained, which to such Lieutenants by vertue of the same Act to be nominated by his Maiestie, any wayes belongs to be Acted, done, or performed by force of the same Act; a transcript or Copy of which Commission is herunto annexed: And whereas by the said Act of Parliament the said respective Lieutenants have power and authority (amongst other thinges) to present to his Maiestie, his heires, and successours, the names of such person, and persons, as they shall thinke fitt to be Deputy Lieutenants, and upon his Maiestie's approbation of them to give them Deputations accordingly: Know ye, therefore, that I, the

said CHARLES Earle of DERBY, by force and vertue of the said Act and Commission aforesaid, and for the Better execution of the powers and thinges in the said Act specified, and conteyned according to the tenour and intent thereof; by and with his Majestie's approbation, have nominated, appointed, constituted, and deputed, and by these presents do nominate, appoint, constitute, and depute ROBERT LORD CHOLMONDELEY, WILLIAM STANLEY, Esq., Sir GEORGE WARBURTON, Baronet, Sir PETER LRICESTER, Baronet, Sir RICHARD BROOKE, Baronet, Sir PHILLIP EGERTON, Knight, Sir ROBERT COTTON, Knight, Sir PETER BROOKE, Knight, Sir JOHN ARDEN, Knight, Sir GEOFFREY SHACKERLEY, Knight, PETER VENABLES, THOMAS LEGH, of Adlington, RICHARD LEGH, of Lime, THOMAS MARRBURY, of the Mere, THOMAS CHOLMONDELEY, of Vale Royal, HENRY LEGH, of High Legh, Esquires. * * * * *

and every of them my deputy Lieutenant and deputy Lieutenants for and in the County aforesaid, and for and in all Citties, Buroughs, Liberties, incorporated and privileged places, and other places whatsoever within the same county or the liberties or precincts thereof to Act, doe, Execute, and performe; and to the intent and purpose that they see many or such number of them as by the Act of Parliament aforesaid is in that behalfe directed, Limited, or appointed, shall and may Act, doe, Execute, and performe all and every the powers and Authorities matter and things in the same Act of Parliament specified and contained, which by or on the part and behalfe of the Deputy Lieutenants therein mentioned by force or vertue of the same Act may or ought to be acted, done, executed, or performed, and that in all things, according to the true intent and meaning of the same Act. In witness whereof, I, the said Charles, Earle of Derby, have hereunto sett my hand and seal the 15 Day of June, in the 17 yeare of the Reigne of our said Sovereigne Lord King Charles the Second. Anno Domini 1685.

(Signed)

DERBY."

A portion of the Seal is still, remaining showing a quartered coat of eight quarterings.

Pensarn.

J. P. BARWAKER.

Notes.

[1872] ROMAN CEMETERY AT CHESTER.

(Concluded from No. 1865.)

As is frequently the case in monuments of this class, the upper portion is obtusely pointed, and has a species of *tympanum* or recessed compartment, with a carving in relief, representing CALLIMORPHUS on a couch in a recumbent posture, with his son SERAPION resting on his lap. Near the side of this couch or bed is a small, gracefully formed stand; and, to the left of this, an unmistakeable *ampora*. Height of the slab, 4 feet 2

inches; width, 2 feet 3 inches; and average thickness about 6 inches.

I again quote Mr. Shrubsole's remarks, who says:—

"The Inscribed Stone was found between the second and third buttresses of the Walls, counting from the GROSVENOR ROAD, and 40 feet west from the Walls, and within the ring of posts which spans the ROODEE, but 6 feet from the outer line. It was described to me when found as neither upright nor lying down,—“something between the two,” the workmen said. It narrowly escaped being broken up to facilitate its removal from the trench. I had previously told the workmen to look out for letters on tiles or stones, and their seeing them on the stones saved it from mutilation, if not destruction. My notes do not say in what direction it inclined. I am disposed to think that it was towards the Walls: that it had been placed upright originally I have no doubt; the slipping of the clay bank downwards had caused the upper part of the Stone to incline inwards.

. The Stone was seen to occupy a hole in a bed of clay, the ordinary brick clay of the neighbourhood—which was undisturbed save where it had been dug out to receive the Stone. The trench for the sewer cut through the hole, or grave, in cross section, which showed a width of two or three feet, and five or six feet in depth. This circumstance disposes of the idea that the Stone had been casually brought there, as we shall presently see. The hole (the grave I may say, for such it proved to be) had been dug nearly east and west. The head was towards the river, the feet to the Walls. The excavation cut through only a portion of the grave. The only bones I saw were two human skulls, and some belonging to the upper part of the body. Other bones could be seen protruding on the east side of the cutting, and were not disturbed by me. I examined the skulls, and inquired from Mr. Mackintosh, who was with me, whether he could make out any special type in the skulls, and he said that there was nothing very striking about them. One thing was apparent: it was that one of them was larger than the other. I declined the gift of them, and in the filling in of the trench they were deposited close to their former resting place.

Now, as on the Stone mention is made of the burial of a father and son; and seeing that by the stone are found, with other bones, two skulls, one smaller than the other; we may, I think, safely infer that there is some intimate connection between them;—in fact, none other than that the remains discovered are those of the persons whose names are recorded on the Stone. The finding of a gold ring and a Roman coin among the filled-in rubbish composing the grave, is quite in accordance with what we should expect to find at a Roman burial. With regard to the ring, I ought to say that I never saw it. It was described to me as large, and massive in character. The man who found it left the city the next day. The Roman coin I examined,—it was a second

brass of *Domitian* in poor condition. Summing up all these facts, then—the grave, the gravestone, the bones, the ring, the coin—and, without the least overstraining them, I cannot but think that they place beyond all doubt and conjecture that we have here the actual grave of *CALLIMORPHUS*, and his little son *SERAPION*, as recorded on the Stone.”

I will now conclude the list with two more instances from the Roman cemetery.

6.—Passing over the bank in May, 1881, I noticed (washed bare by the rain) some osseous substance protruding from the soil within a foot or so to the south of the third buttress counting from the steps below *BLACK PRIARS*. Being well aware of the nature of the ground, I suspected that it might be a human skull; and on removal with the point of my stick it proved to be so. A subsequent examination revealed the rest of the skeleton, which lay with its head to the north and the feet to the south, about a foot from and parallel with the *WALLS*.

7.—On re-visiting the spot in the June of the same year another rounded object, from which the soil had been denuded, was presented to my view. This I at first mistook for the polished surface of a boulder, but soon recognised its real nature. The body had been laid in the same position as the last, and parallel with the *Walls*, only lower down, and a little further south. I searched carefully among the earth from within and around each skull, in the hope of finding a coin—*Charon's toll*,—but did not succeed. And in neither case did I meet with any traces of a coffin, or with any of the objects usually found in such situations. The two skulls, the first of which came all to pieces, I have restored as far as possible and placed in the Museum of the Chester Archaeological Society. The skull from the upper grave was broken in through the right side (which was exposed) before I saw it. The second is almost perfect; yet so great is the contempt with which the lower classes regard such matters, that had I not removed them they would, possibly shortly afterwards, have been utilised as footballs on the green sward below.

Parkgate-road.

F. H. W.

Queries.

[1873] A MARTYR SAVED THROUGH A BROKEN LEG.

It isn't often I suspect that a broken leg benefits any one, save perhaps the doctor who sets it again; but I understand that a calamity of the sort once saved a Cheshire parson from a shameful death. Is there any foundation for this statement, which comes to me from a sixteenth century quarter fairly entitled to credence?

Y. O. M.

[1874] ST. OSWALD'S VICARAGE, CHESTER.

The new Vicarage of *St. Oswald's*, a very pretty house with good surroundings, and in a picturesque part of the environs of *CHESTER*, is a noble appanage of the Living now annexed to and parcel of the Parish of “*St. Oswald and St. Thomas*.” I believe, though, it has only during the last few years been associated with the cure of *St. Oswald's*.

This being so, I am desirous to know, if someone will kindly tell me, in what part of the ancient Parish of *St. Oswald's* was the old Vicarage house situated? I know my old friend the *Rev. WILLIAM HARRISON*, the late Vicar, used to complain that he had no official house of abode; but I fancy this cannot always have been the case. I have read somewhere that the Vicars of *St. Oswald's* sometimes resided at their country Chapelry of *BRUERA* (otherwise *CHURTON HEATH*), coming in frequently to Chester to their parochial duties there. But this would not always be a convenient arrangement, and I think there must have been a parsonage house, at one time or other, for so important a parish. Who will tell me something about it that will be likely at the same time to interest your readers generally?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

Replies.

[1875] DR. EDWARD WOLLEY.

(Concluded from No. 1869)

On the 6th December, 1861, *Dr. Hacket* was elected to the bishopric of *Lichfield and Coventry*; *Dr. Monke*, brother to the Duke of *Albemarle*, received the see of *Hereford* 1st December, 1860; *Bristol* fell to *Dr. Ironside*, 14th December, 1860, after having been refused by *Dr. Powell*; and *Peterborough* was filled by *Dr. Lany*, elected 20th November, 1860. The vicarage of *Croston*, according to the list of vicars given by *Baines*, ultimately came into possession of *James Pilkington*, who is said to have been presented by the *Mittons* of *Knightbridge*. Being thus unsuccessful in obtaining church preferment in *Lancashire*, and all the sees being filled, *Dr. Wolley* saw reason to lower his views. He then begged for the wealthy Crown living of *Toppefield* (not *Finchfield*, as *a Wood* believes), a parish six miles north-west of *Halstead*, and near *Finchfield*, in *Essex*. *Charles II.*, becoming weary of his chaplain's suit, gave him this living; but this preferment by no means satisfied the ambition of *Dr. Wolley*, whose long continued designation as *Warden* of *Manchester* gave him an interest in the large benefices of *Lancashire*. He therefore petitioned the King for permission to hold the rectory

of Croston, near Chorley, the right of patronage in which may have been in dispute; for Wolley claimed to have received the countenance of a private patron, a member perhaps of the Mitton family, if Baines, above quoted, may be relied upon. Dr. Wolley was not, however, permitted to become a pluralist. He remained plain parish priest of Toppefield until the end of 1664, "settling the inhabitants thereof in loyal principles"; says à Wood, "and undoing and invalidating the doctrine which that most notorious Independent [*sic*] Stephen Marshall had instilled into them." An account of Wolley's *modus operandi* in respect to these proceedings is given in a passage in Burnet's "*History of His Own Times*," where it is related, in reference to the offence which most of the bishops gave to the King in 1667, that the latter asserted that the clergy were to blame for the disorders of that year; "for if they had lived well and had gone about their parishes and taken pains to convince the Nonconformists, the nation might have been by this time well settled. But they thought of nothing but to get good benefices and to keep a good table. . . . It agrees with a conversation that the King was pleased to have with myself once when I was alone with him in his closet. While we were talking I was struck to hear a Prince of his course of life so much disgusted at the ambition, covetousness, and the scandals of the clergy. He said if the Clergy had done their part it had been an easy thing to run down the Nonconformists; but, he added, they will do nothing, and will have me do everything; and most of them do worse than if they did nothing. He told me he had a chaplain [*vis.* Dr. Wolley] that was a very honest man, but a very great blockhead, to whom he had given a living in Suffolk [*Essex*] that was full of that sort of people [*vis.* Nonconformists]. He [Dr. W.] had gone about among them from house to house, though he could not imagine what he could say to them; for he said he was a very silly Fellow, but that he believed his nonsense suited their nonsense, for he had brought them all to Church, and in reward of his diligence he had given him a Bishoprick in Ireland." As to this passage, however, it should be noted that Cole, the antiquary, has animadverted upon Burnet's "venom;" it is, moreover, certain that Dr. Wolley left a "conventicle" in his parish, and that in 1672 John Overed, the former rector, took out a license for his house in the adjoining village of Castle Hedingham to to be a Presbyterian meeting-place. The bishopric to which Wolley was appointed was that of Clonfert and Kilmaedunagh, his patent to which is dated 10th March, 1664-5; and he was consecrated at Tuam on the 16th April following. He was made D.D. of Cambridge in 1664. It is satisfactory to find that the bishop was held in great veneration for his life and conversation. He held the see nineteen years, during which time he put in repair his cathedral of Clonfert, as well as his

residence. In one of the rooms of the latter are his armorial bearings over a chimney-piece (*Ar.* on a chevron *sa.* an eagle displayed *ar.*); with his motto, *Pasce oves*. His death in 1684 was occasioned by a fall from his horse.

Stretford.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

[1876] TWO CURIOUS EXTRACTS FROM
"DOMESDAY SURVEY."

[No. 1850.—October 11, 1882.]

It is thus asserted at the above reference:—

"I do not think, in the whole of *Domesday Survey* relative to CHESHIRE, there is any instance of a female Landholder, besides the one that held *Cepmundewiche* in *Wilaveston Hundred*."

Now I find it recorded in that Survey, of WARFORD as of CEPMUNDEWICHE, that

"*GODID tenuit, et libera fuit*";

and of TETTON and OLLERTON, that

"*GODID tenuit*."

It is stated moreover of one of the POOLS (by Nantwich),—CHOLMONDESTON,—and CHOWLEY,—that

"*ULVEVA tenuit, et libera fuit*."

Nantwich. •

W. W. D.

[1877] SWORD OF STATE OF THE EARL OF
CHESTER.

[No. 1,866.—Nov. 8th, 1882.]

Your correspondent A. B., by transposing the words "State Sword" into "Sword of State," and regarding the word *State* as equivalent to *dignity*, has turned two swords into one. The sword he describes has been correctly inscribed by the Museum authorities as the *State Sword* of EDWARD, PRINCE OF WALES AND EARL OF CHESTER. Now the "State Sword" was quite a different sword from the "Sword of Dignity." They were emblematical of two distinct offices. I have a drawing of the "Sword of Dignity," and the description annexed to it says:—

"The Sword of Dignity belonging to the first Norman Earl. This famous Sword is still (1838) remaining in the British Museum. Its length is about four feet, 'and so unwieldy,' says Dr. Gower, as to be brandished with difficulty by a very strong man with both his hands. The blade is two-edged, and has this inscription beneath the hilt:—*Hugo comes Cestriae*. The hilt itself is decorated with pearls; the guard is wanting. This sword was indeed the Sword of Dignity, and had its dignified courts and offices."

Now, this description, compared with A.B.'s, proves there were two distinct Swords.

"Pennant" shows the two separate offices very clearly. Writing of *Hugh Lupus*, he says:—

"To him the Conqueror delegated a fulness of power; made him a County Palatine, and gave it such a sovereign jurisdiction that the ancient Earls kept

their own parliament and held their own courts of law,—in which any offence against the dignity of the Sword of Chester was as cognizable as the like offence would be at Westminster against the royal crown; for WILLIAM allowed LUPUS to hold this county '*tam libere ad Gladium sicut ipse Rex tenebat Angliam ad Coronam.*' The sword by which he was invested with this dignity is still to be seen in the British Museum, inscribed *Hugo comes Cestriae*. Another office, inferior, though of high honour, was also held by the Earls by virtue of this sword—that of sword bearer of England at the times of coronation."

This last office was, no doubt, the one through which EDWARD Prince of Wales, as EARL OF CHESTER, by virtue of the Sword of Dignity, possessed also the State Sword described by A. B. The lines of *Henry Bradshaw*, quoted by A. B. in support of his theory that the "Sword of Dignity" and the "State Sword" were identical, mention a "Sword of Dignity" only, and not a "State Sword" as A. B. suggests.

WILLIAM SELLER.

The "Sword of State" of EDWARD THE FIFTH was not the same as that which was used as the "Sword of Dignity" by "Earl Hugh."

In the *Cheshire Antiquities*, by CHARLES HULBERT, EARL HUGH's sword is said to be about four feet long, two-edged, and very unwieldy. But to distinguish this sword more especially,—it bore, close under the hilt, this inscription on one side, "HUGO COMES"; and on the other, CESTRIAE. The "hilt" was decorated with pearls, and the "guard" was detached at the time Dr. FOOTE GOWER saw it in the British Museum—viz., previous to the year 1838.

There would seem to have been no "armorial bearing" inscribed on the first Earl's sword; if there ever had, in all probability it was a "wolf's head."

Great Saughall.

W. H. BRADFORD.

DECEMBER 6, 1882.

Original Documents.

[1878] ADVENT OF THE CIVIL WAR.

I send you exact copies of two Original Letters, from the COWPER MS. COLLECTIONS at CONDOVER HALL, both of which are addressed to Alderman THOMAS COWPER, who was Mayor of CHESTER in the critical year of 1642.

I. The first, written by some State official, and signed by the King, refers to one of the most indiscreet and violent acts of CHARLES I. On 3 Jan., 1641-2, HERBERT, the Attorney General, appeared in the House of Lords in His Majesty's name, and accused the

five Members of the House of Commons, mentioned in the letter, of High Treason. The Letter, dated as it is on the following day, proves with what haste messengers were despatched with orders for the search and arrest of the recalcitrant members:—

"Charles R.

Whereas m'r Denzil Hollis s'r Arthur Haselrigg m'r John Pim m'r John Hampden m'r William Strode having been by our Attorney General accused of Highe Treason & of Highe miademeano's, beinge stricke with the conscioussnesse of their guilt of crimes of soe highe nature, are fled. And itt being very probable that they will endeavour to make their escape into forraigne parts, Our will and pleasure therefore is, that you use yo'r best diligence and industry to apprehend and arrest the persons of them, or any of them; if they shall come to that our Port or any of the Members of it and that you put or keepe them in safe custody till having advertised vs or our Privy Councel thereof you shall receive further directions for the disposal of them. therein you are to bee very carefull as you tender the good and peace of vs and our Kingdome.

For which this shall be yo'r warrant. Given under our signe manual at our Courte att Whitehall this fourth day of January, in the seventeenth yeare of our raigne, &c. [1641-2].

To the Mayor of our Towne & Port of West chester, the searchers, Comptrollers of the passage, and all other our officers there whom itt may concerne."

ROUNDHEAD SCOUTS AT CHESTER.

II. The second is an autograph Letter of JOHN EARL RIVERS, of Rocksavage, written six days after King Charles had raised his Standard at Nottingham. This Letter, which is a rough scribble, the handwriting being angular in style and not easy to make out, is as follows:—

"Mr. Maior

I thinke itt my duty to lett you know that there is some intelligence brought me thatt ther are some horse come into your towne vnder the name of my lord of Lester's men: butt they say troopers, to be near vppon twentie, as likewise thatt ther is more horse come to the Northwich in the same manner. I thought itt my post to give you a timely notice, thatt you may take the best way you thinke fitt for the peace of the citty, as I will doe for the countrey to the utt'rmost of my power, and I rest your Assured friend

RIVERS.

Rock Savage

this last of Aug: " [1642.] "

Willaston, Nantwich.

JAMES HALL.

Just about three weeks before this short but pithy letter of LORD RIVERS left the picturesque hall of ROCKSAVAGE, on its way to Mr. Mayor COWPER, some of the disaffected within the old city had, in an insolent manner, sounded the tocsin of war in the very streets of CHESTER!

It was on Monday, the 8th of August, 1642, that a tumult arose in the city through some reckless fellows in the Roundhead interest (instigated by Sir WILLIAM BRERETON "of the Nunns," as his house then standing on the site of St. MARY's Nunnery was called) beating a drum for the Parliament; calling upon the citizens to take up arms against the King. This treason was not long ere it reached the ears of the loyal Mayor, who immediately repaired to the scene with his little posse of constables, and ordered them to arrest the offenders. The mob was, however, too large and too strong for the officers, and held them at bay; whereupon Mr. Mayor Cowper stepped forward into their midst, and finding expostulation and reason to be of no avail, he himself seized the foremost of the band and handed him over to the constable. Snatching a rapier from another, he slashed the drum to fragments before their eyes; and a sufficient body of loyal citizens having by that time arrived at the call of the common bell, they soon put the mob and their leaders to flight and, bravely closing round their Mayor, conducted him in safety and honour to the Common Hall!

EDITOR.

Notes.

[1879] THOMAS PENNANT'S MISCELLANIES.

When I was a boy, Mr. DAVID PENNANT, of DOWNING, gave me a copy of his father's great work on *Zoology*, which had been published in folio; and from time to time afterwards I have collected Mr. PENNANT's *Works*, and almost every English edition of them. A small quarto volume of his "Miscellanies" is perhaps the only *scarce* one of the whole, and in my copy of it is written, by George Allan of Darlington, "These Miscellanies (28 pages) I printed at the request, and for the private use of, my worthy friend THO: PENNANT, Esq.—G.A." Upon the fly-leaf is written by another hand—"Supposed to be the only copy printed"; and then follows a note, in the handwriting of that rare collector, THOMAS BELL of Newcastle,— "This copy was sold at Brockett's sale, to Cuthill, the Bookseller in London, for £1 8s. Od. It afterwards again fell into Brockett's hands, at an extra price, and eventually was purchased by T. BELL from Charnley the Bookseller in Newcastle. It is excessively rare, and was originally purchased by Brockett at Allan's sale." From BELL's hands it came to mine, and it is as well to complete the story of its history from Mr. PENNANT's own pen, who in his "Literary Life" says—"I at several times gave to the public some trifles, which were not ill received; but few knew the author. These I collected some years ago, and printed, for the amusement of a few friends, thirty copies, by the friendly press of GEORGE ALLAN, Esq., at Darlington." I may add, from a collection of Mr. Pennant's MS. Letters which I possess, this was done in 1781.

We owe so much to the busy and useful pen of Mr. PENNANT, that I need make no apology for asking you to insert this note in THE SHEAF. CAMBER.

[1880] THOMAS BARROW, OF FLOCKERSBROOK.

The Chester family of BARROW, springing originally from the neighbouring township and parish of BARROW, near Tarvin, first appear as merchants and tradesmen in CHESTER city towards the middle of the 15th century. Fifty years afterwards we find THOMAS BARROW, of Chester, investing his merchant savings in the purchase of the estate of FLOCKERSBROOK, and taking, along with WILLIAM SNEYD, another prosperous citizen, a leading part in the municipal management of CHESTER, and sharing with him in its highest honours.

In process of time SIR WILLIAM SNEYD, grandson of the above, married ANNE BARROW, daughter and heiress to THOMAS, son of the above-named Thomas Barrow, of Flockersbrook, and so acquired that Cheshire property; which has, since those days, been broken up into severalties, and is now a populous and busy city suburb.

I append to these remarks, as a fitting sequence, the following transcript of a monumental inscription in WOOLSTANTON Church, Staffordshire, and which can hardly fail, I think, to be interesting to readers of THE SHEAF:—

"Here lie the bodies of Sir WILLIAM SNEYDE, of BROADWALL, Knight, and Dame ANNE, his wife, one of the daughters and heiress of THOMAS BARROWE, of FLYCKERSBROOKE, in the countie of CHESTER, esquier; who had issue five sons and ten daughters; which Sir WILLIAM died the 6. of JUNE, 1571."

Gresford.

T. O. W.

Queries.

[1881] BLUESTONES, SAUGHALL.

There is a superior house and garden, on the Chester confines of GREAT SAUGHALL, known not so very many years ago as BLUESTONES, at which time it was a modest unpretentious cottage or small farm, I am not sure which. Can any of your readers suggest why the tenement in question obtained its unusual name? How far distant is it from Blaenon Cross?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[1882] TOWER HILL, CHESHIRE.

Is there any such named place in this county, or is the casual reference to it, which I have met with in an old Cheshire document, a mistake for our national TOWER HILL in London? I incline personally, for several reasons, to the belief that my notice is a local one.

M. O. Y.

[1888] BULKELEY, BUCKLEY.

Will some reader of the *THE CHESHIRE SHEAF* kindly give the derivation of this name, (or names, if not both from the same source)? The former is common in NORTH WALES, also a place-name in this county (Cheshire); whilst the latter is principally confined to the S.W. Riding of YORKSHIRE.

A YORKSHIREMAN.

[1884] BODROCHWYN, DENBIGHSHIRE.

BRAINT-HIR, founder of one of the Welsh Tribes, is supposed to have possessed a palace at Bodrochwyn, in Denbighshire; and as he was Chancellor to his uncle Cadwallon, and flourished, as they say, A.D. 650, we might suppose the Welsh would have something to say about the man, and his residence. I can find very little about either, nor are there, according to YORKE, many of his descendants left. He says the Vaughans of Pont-y-Gwyddel (The Irishman's Bridge) and Mrs. GIFFORD, of Nerquis, claimed to come from him; and I suppose his residence must have been in the hundred of *Is-Dulas*, for there is a small mill in that hundred called Bodrochwyn Mill. I was told by an old man that one *Catin hendon* was a "king" in the neighbourhood, once upon a time, and in some way connected with BRAINT-HIR. In what way, I should like to know?

The Grave of King Ketin,
In the hearths of Dinorben,"

would also seem to indicate that he was connected with *Is-Dulas* hundred, but when, or how, I have failed to ascertain. I hope you may have some local antiquary among your readers who can throw light upon the points mentioned above, and say also if there are any remains left of Bodrochwyn?

COLLEN.

[1885] CHESTER HERALDS.

While indulging my taste for Heraldry, and studying the grants of arms to some of our more prominent Cheshire families, I have often wished to know who the successive and officially recognised CHESTER HERALDS were? I can make up an incomplete list, but I think it possible that a complete roll could be published; and now that *THE CHESHIRE SHEAF* is again in vigorous progress, I cannot appeal to a better tribunal than its columns.

J. H.

Replies.

[1886] MAYSHAM'S TOWER, CHESTER.

[Vol. i., p. 250, 297.—July 2, Sept. 17, 1879.]

A little light is let in on the name of MAYSHAM'S TOWER through the List of Justices Itinerant, printed by our friend Mr. THOMAS HELSBY in his recently

published edition of ORMEROD'S *Cheshire*,—a work which has as yet received but scant justice at the hands of local historians and critics. It has been the fashion of the hour, anonymously and otherwise, to depreciate the accuracy of the Editor and the historic value of his Work; this, however, I feel sure will not be the righteous verdict of posterity. Perfection, it must be remembered, is a something quite unattainable in this world.

From Mr. HELSBY'S List it appears that on April 10, 5th Hen. iv., John Maynwaring, Matthew del Mere, and THOMAS MEYSHAM, were appointed (by special patent) "Justices of Gaol Delivery in the county of Chester;" and that two years afterwards, "Augt. 1, 7th Hen. iv., Hugh de Ravenscroft, Thomas Wodewarde, John Lowe, and THOMAS MEYSHAM were similarly named" for the delivery from the gaol of the Castle of CHESTER of Conan ap Eign' Mail.

It seems probable from these notices that that portion of CHESTER CASTLE, in which *Maysham's* Tower was situated, was just then being built; and that the tower was so named in honour of the Justice Itinerant then presiding and indeed probably resident there, *Thomas Maysham*.

T. HUGHES.

[1887] THE PARRYS OF CWM, CO. DENBIGH.

[Nos. 1608, 1631, 1642; April 27, May 16, 25, 1881.]

This family received a lengthy notice at the above references; and several local names being there mentioned that are recorded on tombstones in the Church of DISERTH, I quote the particulars of them from *Byegones* for September 28, 1881:—

"In the chancel floor is a slab which has an inscription in capitals round the verge, now illegible, and, on the face 'Dorothy, relict of William Mostyn Esqvier., obit 1 Nov. 1681.' Another slab with the verge inscription illegible, in which the word 'Mostyn' can alone be deciphered; and on the face of the same stone a portion of another imperfect inscription, ' episcopi asaphen sepultus fuit vicesimo tertio Februarii anno dom. 1637.' On a shield below is a lion rampant, with 'William Mostyn of Rhyd, Esqr., died 6 November, 1678, aged 26.'"

JOHN HEWITT.

[1888] TWO MINSHULL MARRIAGES IN THE 16TH CENTURY.

[No. 1854.—October 11th, 1882.]

"CESTRISIENSIS" asks if any of the readers of *THE SHEAF* can identify the persons named in either of the two extracts he gives from the MALPAS Registers?

One of these extracts mentions JOHN MINSHULL and MARY BRERFON as married 7th day of February, 1595. Now one of the RANDLE HOLMES (Harl. MS.

2,142, fo. 115), copying "from Mr. Thomas Gamul* Note Recorder," tells us that John Mynshull, of Hampton, had a son also named John Mynshull, of Hampton; and that this second John was husband of Mary, dau. to . . . Brereton, of the Higher Hall of Edge. This seems to answer the second question of "CESTRIENSIS."

But who the "John Minshull, Esquier, and Gertrude Minshull, commonly called 'Gartrude,' were, that were married at Malpas on the 8th of October, by Licence of Ordinarie, 1573," I am at a loss to pronounce. With respect to the other marriage, Mary Brereton was probably a second wife; for John's son RANDLE, who in 1602 married Elizabeth Leicester, daughter of William Leicester, Mayor of Chester, could not have been the issue of a marriage contracted so late as 1595.

Stafford.

T. J. M.

[1889] POPISH RECUSANTS AT CHESTER.

[No. 1863.—Nov. 8, 1882.]

The active Mayor who, in the curious Letter printed at length in the last No. of THE SHEAF, reported to the Privy Council the steps he had taken to consign his Recusant Visitors to Prison in the Northgate of the city, was a scion of a family not very gratefully remembered by our 16th and 17th century CESTRIANS. The GLASIERS of Lea, by Backford, came as mere adventurers (but evidently keen men of business), to CHESTER early in the 16th century, and ostensibly from Warwickshire. RANDLE HOLME, however, rejected that claim, and declared that their CHESHIRE patriarchy was a Manxman: but be that as it may, he and his progeny, scooting plunder from afar, took a prominent part in the Reformation (but especially in that section of it which manipulated the Church estates of this locality), with a zeal worthy of a far better cause. Outwardly, purity of religion was their war-cry, but self-enrichment was, in truth, the main spring of their actions. It is not very wonderful, therefore, that we find WILLIAM GLASIER the father, WILLIAM GLASIER the son, and HUGH GLASIER the grandson, professing little affection for the Recusants; whom indeed they hunted down, even to prison, so often as they chanced to come across them.

Of the second WILLIAM (who was then Vice Chamberlain of Cheshire), a long story might be written, for his life-work was a scandal, as the then DEAN AND CHAPTER OF CHESTER found to their cost; and HUGH GLASIER, his son, the Mayor, was only a trifle less vengeful than his immediate ancestors. He got

himself made M.P. for CHESTER in 1601-10, and was serving both offices when he wrote his Letter to the Privy Council, which was printed in the last No. of THE SHEAF.

The common fate of all such daring robbers of the Church fell ultimately on these GLASIERS of Lea: their lands passed from them and from their blood to strangers, and CHESTER and CHESHIRE have since known them no more.

T. HUGHES.

[1890] STATE SWORD OF THE EARLDOM OF CHESTER.

[Nos. 1866, 1877.—Nov. 8, 22, 1882.]

At the time of my writing to THE SHEAF I was not aware of there being in the British Museum any other Sword pertaining to the EARLDOM OF CHESTER than the one I then described; and I must admit that, in the endeavour to trace it back to HUGH LUPUS, the wish was father to the thought. Through the information kindly sent me by the EDITOR of the existence of another Sword in the Museum, having inscribed upon it the words HUGO COMES CESTRIÆ, I made further inquiry; and Mr. A. FRANKS, who has charge of that department in the Museum, was good enough to show me this other Sword, and which is evidently the one mentioned by your correspondents, WILLIAM SELLE, and W. H. BRADFORD, in the last number of THE SHEAF. The written description attached to it by the Museum Authorities is as follows:—

"State Sword of the Earldom of Chester, inscribed HUGO COMES CESTRIÆ, and commonly attributed to Hugh Lupus, created Earl of Chester 1070, but possibly of Hugh Kevelioc, Earl of Chester 1153-1180.

The present handle has been added in the 15th century.—COTTON COLL."

I was permitted to handle and to measure this Sword. The blade is 3 feet 4 inches in length. The hilt, or handle, as named above, is 7½ inches. The blade has the words "HUGO COMES" on one side and "CESTRIÆ" on the other—clear and plain. The blade is two-edged, straight and pointed; but it is not of the unwieldy character stated by Dr. FOOTE GOWER—"so unwieldy as to be brandished with difficulty by a very strong man with both his hands." With the original hilt and guard, I would describe it as not a difficult Sword to use for practical purposes in the hand of the great Hugh Lupus. The present hilt has no guard to it; it is not decorated with pearls, but has panels of mother of pearl. The weight of the Sword is from five to six pounds, and it balances at one-third its length from the pommel. For the purpose of greater precision I have the pleasure of sending you a drawing, made from the sketches and measurements I took on the spot.

Stockwell, London.

G. A. B.

* The Minshulls and Gamuls were allied by marriage as early as the 15th century,—see Harleian MS. 2,038, fo. 107. Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Minshull, of Hulgrave, married Thomas Gamul,—37, H. 6 (1459). This Thomas Gamul, 'Note Recorder,' could not, by the dates, be the Recorder of Chester, for the latter died 1613, but probably his nephew, son of Alderman William Gamul, or his own grandson,—see the pedigree of Gamul, HENRY'S *Ormerod*, vol. iii., p. 475.

DECEMBER 20, 1882.

Our Christmas Number.

Original Documents.

[1891] FISH DAYS AND FAST DAYS.

In the century next after the Reformation it was an ecclesiastical offence (I presume it is *strictly* so still) to eat flesh-meat on any Friday in the year, except when the Festival of CHRISTMAS DAY chanced to happen on that weekly day of abstinence. A writer in *Notes and Queries*, on March 8th, 1862, says:—

"Fasting, in its exhaustive sense, limits both quantity and quality of food; abstinence limits the quality only, that is to say, forbids the use of animal food. Good Friday is a day of the strictest fast: all other Fridays, except any CHRISTMAS DAY which falls on a Friday, are days of abstinence; that is to say, they are days upon which, except by Dispensation on account of health, no animal food is eaten, but other food is allowed without restriction."

Probably the very latest recorded instance of a Dispensation being so granted out of the Episcopal Court at CHESTER, is the following, transcribed from the Registrar's Enrolment Books, vol. ii., fo. 374, preserved in the Bishop's Office, over the lower Abbey Gateway:—

"To the Hon'ble Ladie, the LADIE ANNE
BRERETON."

"Theese are to authorize and Lycence you for ye recovery of yo'r health to eate flesh vpon any flish day, duringe the time of yo'r sickness and noe longer, accordinge to the libertie granted by ye Statute, and noe further, as witnesses my hand, this 27th of March, 1633.

WILL'M CASE,

Vicar of St. Oswald's,
w'thin ye Cittie of Chester.
Concoordat ou' original', f'o'o Collaco'e
p' me Lau' Carter
No'rhum Pub'oum."

The lady who thus claimed and received official Dispensation to eat flesh at her pleasure, during her sickness, was ANNE FITTON, eldest daughter of Sir Edward Fitton, the first baronet of Gawsorth, co. Chester. She was baptised at Gawsorth July 28, 1594, and married there, clandestinely, on April 18, 1608, to [Sir] John Brereton, son and heir to Sir William (afterwards Lord) Brereton, of Brereton, knight, the bridegroom being then only 14 years of age! Their son and heir, William, afterwards second Lord Brereton, was born before she attained her 17th year. Sir John, her husband, died December 28, 1629, and it was four years after that event that she obtained the foregoing

Dispensation. Some years afterwards she remarried to Sir Gilbert Gerard, Knight, Governor of Worcester city for Charles I. during the great Civil War. She was buried with her first husband at Brereton, January 7, 1663. Ormerod's pedigree of the FITTONS, at this period, is quite superseded by that given by Mr. J. P. EARWAKER, F.S.A., in his *East Cheshire*, vol. ii., pp. 565-7. T. FITZ H.

[1892] A CHRISTMAS DAY ELECTION.

(See No. 1537.)

Probably it has never happened so but the once in the Parliamentary history of our country, but it was nevertheless a fact, that the General Election for CHESTER City, in the year 1620-1, occurred on CHRISTMAS DAY! I find the circumstance related in the following paragraph, transcribed from a 4to MS. in my collection, and which I purchased many years ago from the late G. H. Crowther, old-bookseller in Chester:—

"Edward Whitbie, Recorder, and John Ratoliff, Alderman and Justice of ye Peace, Elected for Burgesses of this City in ye ensuing Parliament. Dec. 25, 1621 [1620], in the Aforenoon, by ye *Free Voices both of free and foreign w'ch* inhabited w'thin ye City."

Elections were not very serious matters in those times: political feeling in CHESTER, with all its acrimonious party spirit, was a thing practically unknown; and there is little doubt that this very unusual business for CHRISTMAS DAY was quickly enough got through, and that the Mayor and more prominent citizens, with their two new Members, did ample justice to the roast beef and plum-pudding awaiting them at the ASSEMBLY Board close by! G. T.

Notes.

[1893] AN ODE TO CHESTER.

We have several times been appealed to to find a corner in THE SHEAF for a little poem on CHESTER, printed in the *Courant*, and in the CHRISTMAS WEEK of it, twenty four years ago. It is so full of genuine English feeling and local sentiment, that we have determined to accord it a place in OUR CHRISTMAS NUMBER for 1882.

ODE TO THE ANCIENT CITY OF CHESTER,

BY THE REV. S. F. MACDONALD.

UPON the banks of Deva,
That ancient Celtic stream,
A grey old city standeth,
Of centuries the dream;
Of centuries the relic,
Of former days the pride,
When Saxon churl and Norman earl,
Did England's strength divide.

Engirt with walls it riseth
Above the plain around,
By tower and bridge defended,
By castle, moat, and mound ;
E'en now those time-worn ramparts
Its fame and power attest,
When erst the land it did command,
And sentinell'd the west !

But ah ! how many changes
Have these old walls beheld,—
How many a victor vanquished,
How many a queller quelled !
What tides of population
Have rolled around this spot,—
Have spent in strife their little life,
And been at length forgot !

What scenes of ancient glory,
What tales of iron war,
Could these gray rocks unfold us,
And hills that stand afar !
Like surging waves of ocean
That sweep successive on,—
That tow'r on high, then sink and die,—
Those men of old have gone !

Here lived the painted savage
With gems and baubles gilt ;
His raft first spanned yon river,
He first those bulwarks built.
Here marched the Roman soldier
Imperial in his pride,
With mailed breast, and eagle crest,
That owned no power beside !

Here trod the sturdy Saxon,
The jovial and the free ;
Here rushed the Danish Viking,
The master of the sea ;
Here charged the steel-clad Norman,
The artful and the strong,
Whose only right was mettled might,
Yet triumphed in the wrong.

Here ruled the princely Lupus
Thanks to his kinsman's fame ;
Here came the warlike Edward,
The Welchman's pride to tame ;
And sad unhappy Richard,
A crownless prisoner led ;
And Henry mild, whose reign reviled
Saw blood like water shed.

And once upon this tower
The royal Stuart stood,
While fiercely on yon moorland
The tide of battle flowed :
The iron men of Cromwell
His cavaliers bore down ;
And Langdale sped and Lichfield bled
In vain for England's crown.

Yet o'er the ancient city
The royal standard waved,
And long her sons undaunted
Fire, steel, and famine braved.

Too faithful for the faithless,
Too loyal for her lord,—
To want and woe, and not the foe,
She yielded up the sword !

We greet thee, noble Chester !
We greet thy kingly men,
As from the mists of story
Once more they rise again.
Thy time-scathed walls we honour,
Thy crumbled towers revere,
Thy sacred aisles, thy hoary piles,
That bring the distant near !

Long be thy dwellings joyous,
And bright thy household fires ;
Thy children brave and loyal,
And worthy as their sires !
Long may thy sons be nurtured
In noble arts of peace,
In faith and truth, best gifts of youth,—
And still those gifts increase !

The author of this smoothly running Poem was the Rev. S. F. MACDONALD, of QUEEN STREET, CHESTER, who was at the time of its first publication the Minister of the Unitarian (formerly MATTHEW HENRY'S) Chapel, Crook-street, in this city. He removed hence to Rochdale and died there.

EDITOR.

[1894]

THINGS I REMEMBER.

No. 25.

THE CHORISTERS' CHRISTMAS.

Looking back some forty years and more on the stream of time, I have a vivid recollection of how I spent my CHRISTMAS, as a Chorister Boy of Chester Cathedral, when William IV. was King.

HAYLETT, our Organist, took a particular pride in getting us well up in the CHRISTMAS ANTHEM, "For unto us a Child is born ! " And we lads usually got a pretty hard knocking about from our musical taskmaster ; whose temper, never of the sweetest, had a special knack of boiling over at this festive season. He had a lump of lead in the organ-loft, which he used for laying upon any particular note requiring a long "dwell"; and I remember his, on one occasion, flinging this at my head at a preliminary practice, for singing I daresay, just a little flat to his delicate ear. Happily, missing his aim at me, the leaden plummet lodged with a thud on the stomach of dear old BEN LINNEY ; whose rich bass voice instantly gave forth notes and exclamations very foreign to the score of the mighty master, whose work we were then rehearsing !

Well, the Anthem on the 25th always contrived to go off with *coldt*. The *habitués* of the Cathedral were usually therefore in excellent humour when, next day and those following, we CHORISTERS sallied out on our annual CHRISTMAS-BOX tour. It was always the great event of our year ; looked forward to by the oldsters as a sort of boyish saturnalia, and by the youngsters with

a rollicking excitement, not altogether unmixed with even awe, at the novel situations in which we then found ourselves, most of us for the first time!

Our first call in a body was, of course, on our good Bishop, Dr. SUMNER (afterwards Primate of All England), at the Old Palace; where a sovereign was always brought out to us by the butler, who generally added an extra shilling for himself. Next, across the Square to our good friend's the Dean (Dr. DAVYS, the PRINCESS VICTORIA'S old Tutor, and soon afterwards Bishop of Peterborough), at whose hospitable door a half-sovereign awaited us,—another promising start! The Prebendary in Residence, Dr. AINGER, was always good for an old-fashioned crown; and then we had a sure fish in old General BECKWITH who, under a savage exterior, always proved a staunch friend to us lads of the CHOIR and of the SCHOOL,—as many a holiday begged for by him from our Schoolmaster, Mr. Paull, amply testified.

Finchett-Maddock, the then Town Clerk, John Hasell, Dr. Bennett ("Dr. Leather Breeches" as we, and older and graver citizens than we, used playfully to call him); Alderman Francis, Edward Stokes Roberts, Dr. George Harrison, and the other old residents in the Square, were all faithful friends of us Choristers on those Christmas occasions. So were also Minor Canon Beydell, the Misses Gildart, "Joey" Eaton (the Precentor), the brothers Wilson, Dr. Penny, Archdeacon Clarke, the Boucher family, the Misses Kenrick, and others I still fondly remember in Abbey Street and the Court adjoining.

We had other good friends scattered up and down about the city; the Humberstons and Barkers, for instance, and Miss Kinloch, in White Friars; Dr. and Miss Thackeray, and several others in Nicholas-street; Sir Richard Puleston, Captain Thelwall, dear old Dick Buckley (there was always a shining crown-piece and an innocent oath or two for us *there*), and Miss Sidney Townshend in Stanley Place; Mrs. Holt, Dr. Llewellyn Jones, Miss Potts, &c., in King's Buildings. Nor did we ever turn empty away from good old Dr. BAGNALL's door, nor yet from Sir JOHN HILTON's or the dashing Colonel's, in Nicholas-street; any more than we did from that of their dark-eyed relative, at that day a charming widow with two equally charming daughters. Ample largesse awaited us too at Mr. Feilden's of Mollington Hall, Mr. Massey's of Moston, Mr. Hughes' of The Bache; at Miss Yates' and Lady Broughton's, Roger Jason's and Peplow Hamilton's of Hoole; at Dr. Currie's of Boughton Hall; at John Uniacke's of Boughton House, and dear old John Lloyd's, the Prothonotary, at East Mount, grandfather of our present Recorder. There were the Churtens of Barrel Well too, and the Baxters of Dee Hills, on whom we never called in vain; and there was a similar result at Colonel Barnston's and Madam Bold's in Foregate-street; at Mr. George Brooke's, St. John's House; at Archdeacon Wrangham's and Chancellor

Raikes', of Dee Side; and numerous other friends and frequenters of the Cathedral, whose names have at this moment faded from the mental vision.

Of course we had plenty of sweets and currant cake, paid for out of the common purse,—literally an old canvas bag that had been handed down to us time out of mind from previous occupants of the choristers' desk, and only re-appearing on these CHRISTMAS anniversaries to do its duty again. It was considered a mighty honour to carry that bag,—a prerogative always claimed by the "leader of the QUIRE!"

But the charm of each day, after all, was its close; when, tired with the day's long trudge of many miles on our exciting errand, we adjourned to the festive and motherly board of old MRS. MATTHEWS, of the MOON TAVERN, in WATERGATE ROW, North. There her savoury meat pies, fresh from the steaming oven, as she (and as we boys thought only she) knew how to produce them, were devoured with a zest which our hungry appetites well knew how to demonstrate! The generous repast over, washed down with unlimited supplies of un-chicoried coffee, MRS. MATTHEWS would then indulge us (in her own little club-room at the side) with an old "deck of cards." And there for an hour or two would we revel in the mysteries of "strip Peter naked," with boisterous fun: and this, after paying our good hostess her moderate charges, and ourselves equitably dividing the spoil out of the old canvas bag, sent us all happy home as the clock struck eight; for MRS. MATTHEWS was a thoughtful, respectable woman, a fine specimen of the real old-fashioned sort of landlady, of whom I suspect there are not many now to be met with under the shadow of "mine inn."

Of the CHORISTER BOYS of that day alas! not more than three or four, if so many, are left; but the happy halo that surrounded those CHRISTMAS-BOX rambles, and the happy spirits who shared in them with innocent boyish glee, will never vanish as long as loving memory survives.

T. HUGHES.

[1895] A YOUNG CHESHIRE SQUIRE'S CHRISTMAS JOURNEY HOME, SIXTY YEARS AGO.

I send for insertion in your CHRISTMAS NUMBER of THE SHEAF if agreeable, the following Lines, culled from a little volume entitled *Epigrams and Humorous Verses*, by RAMBLING RICHARD, which, as many of your readers are aware, is only another name for "*The Squire of Arley Hall*." Our venerable Cheshire Poet is here recording his recollections of a stage-coach journey home from a public school, and contrasts the trials of his two days' travel then, with the similar yet far simpler experience of our boys of the present day. He tersely styles it

"PAST AND PRESENT.

On four-horse coach, whose luggage pierc'd the sky,
Perched on back seat, like clerk on office stool,
While wintry winds my dangling heels kept cool,—

In Whitney white envelop'd and blue tie,
Unpillow'd slumber from my half-closed eye
Sear'd by the shrill tin horn : when welcome YULE
Brought holiday season, it was thus from School

I homeward came some forty years gone by.
Thus two long days and one long night I rode,
Stage after stage, till the last change of team
Stopped, splashed and panting, at my sire's abode.

How now-a-day from school comes home my son ?
Through duct and tunnel by a puff of steam,
Shot like a pellet from his own pop-gun !

A WOODMAN.

[1896] A CHRISTMAS FROLIC.

The *Chester Courant* for February 4, 1812, has the following paragraph :—

"DAMAGING BRIDGES.—Joseph Bury and Edward Foulkes, of WREXHAM, for wantonly throwing down the battlement of Pen-y-bryn Bridge, in that town, on CHRISTMAS EVE (besides the expense of repairing the work and all costs attending their prosecution), paid a penalty of five pounds; which the Magistrates ordered to be distributed in white bread to the poor of the parishes of Wrexham, Ruthin, Denbigh, and Llanrwst."

CAMBRIA.

[1897] WEDGWOOD THE POTTER.

MISS METEYARD'S deeply interesting and exhaustive *Life of Josiah Wedgwood* contains very many allusions to our county, and to particular persons, places, and things in and connected with it. This is scarcely to be wondered at, considering the nearness of the STAFFORDSHIRE POTTERIES to the CHESHIRE border. The great potter found his wife—a true helpmate—in a CHESHIRE homestead : and the pair were wedded in the grand old Church at ASTBURY, the hamlet in which the future MRS. WEDGWOOD resided, as well as the district from which I write, then forming part of that extensive parish. A few extracts, which I have here transcribed, will, I am sure, interest the readers of THE CHESHIRE SHEAF. They are as follows :—

"The second AARON WEDGWOOD . . . was known as a skilful lead-ore potter, and of his sons, three played a very important part in the history of their family.

One of these sons, named Richard, born in 1700, settled at SPEN GREEN, in CHESHIRE, and there, as a cheesefactor, acquired a considerable fortune; visiting the rural markets of Leek, Congleton, Uttoxeter, Tamworth, Stafford, and other of the Midland towns; and thence despatching his goods to such great centres of a then rapidly increasing manufacturing industry as Manchester and Birmingham, and, for export, to Liverpool. He had but two children, a son and a daughter. To the latter (who evidently by the death of her brother inherited her father's wealth) he gave an excellent education, and this in due season bore its fruits, as we shall see."—Vol. i., chap. v., p. 194.

"At this date John and Thomas Wedgwood, of the Big House, were both bachelors . . . The younger brother married, and a family grew around him.

But, alike in the days of married as in those of their bachelor life, the then famous red-brick house of Burslem was a very hospitable place; and amongst the guests who occasionally came there was their brother, Mr. RICHARD WEDGWOOD, of SPEN GREEN, in CHESHIRE. He had, as already stated, made a large fortune as a cheesefactor; and now, retired from business, led the simple life of a country gentleman. His wife had been long dead, but he had children, a son and a daughter. To the young lady he had given an education far above the average of that accorded to women. She wrote and spelt well; she had a keen and accurate judgment, which, under after-cultivation, rose in its degree; and there is that in her countenance, as preserved to us in the cameos, which indicates a great natural sense of beauty and form. The long thread of artistic cultivation, through the line of her forefathers, had left its traces there, and with every pregnant result, as we shall see. SARAH WEDGWOOD was one of those happily constituted women who can rise equal to superior fortune if it come, and yet lose sight of no utility necessary to its beginning. She was an admirable housewife; could make wine and confections, and spin flax with any of her neighbours. The days were close at hand when, happily, the spinning-wheel was to be dismissed to the lumber room, and better employment assigned to her, by him who was to rule her life; but at present she presided over her father's house. He was devotedly attached to her; and the pleasant tradition is that when he came riding in fine weather to BURSLEM to see his brothers at the Big House, SARAH would sit on a pillion behind him, whilst the old serving man followed on a farm horse! Once in her uncles' house, the young potter who was working so near at hand, in laying the foundation, to him as yet unconsciously, of an imperishable fame, was sure, when a leisure hour allowed him, to be a guest; and thus an attachment grew up between the distant cousins, whose great-grandfathers on the paternal side had been sons of that GILBERT WEDGWOOD who, just a century and a half before, had married the rich co-heiress of Thomas Burslem. Then there came 'CHRISTMAS JUNKETINGS,' and harvest and hay-making feasts; when, for once in a way, the young potter left his experiments, his models, his lathes, and his ovens, and, mounting his favourite horse Tuffy, took the ten-mile road to the farm-house at SPEN GREEN."—Chap. vii., pp. 232-34.

"For some few months prior to the spring of 1762, Mr. WEDGWOOD again suffered from the disorder in his knee, and there were symptoms of the joint stiffening. His skilful surgeon, Mr. BENT, of Newcastle, was as usual called in, and some relief ensued. But it was unfortunately temporary in its effects; for being obliged to make one of his customary journeys to LIVERPOOL, he hurt it by the way, either through the stumbling of his horse, or

by grazing it against a passing wheel in one of the narrow lanes peculiar to the district. This occurred on the Cheshire side of WARRINGTON. On reaching LIVERPOOL on the following day, he had at once to be assisted upstairs to bed.

There was *one* more anxious still—his 'dear girl,' his 'loving Sally,' in the quiet farmhouse at SPEN GREEN; but the postman from CONGLETON often brought her a letter, and so she consoled herself with looking forward to 'Jos's' return."—Chap. VIII., pp. 299-300.

"In the sacredness of that friendship which binds the hearts of the two men together, Mr. BENTLEY is duly informed of the progress of the courtship. . .

No particulars of the wedding are extant, though it was solemnised by license on the day named—Wednesday, January 25, 1764—in the fine old Parish Church of ASTBURY. . . .

The wedding party must, of necessity, have proceeded to church on horseback or in vehicles, as SPEN GREEN lay somewhat off; it was also the depth of winter, and the roads in this part of CHESHIRE were notoriously bad. Cottages and farms lay around the church, and supplied gazers enough, we may be quite sure, as the little procession passed the fine gateway; which, as here seen, gives entrance to the churchyard, and thence into the Church itself, with its lateral aisles and appended chapel. ASTBURY Church is still one of the finest in Cheshire; more on the scale of a cathedral than the mother church of a rural district. The ceremony over, there was the joyous return home; JOSIAH WEDGWOOD no longer a solitary man, but with the good angel of his life now for ever by his side. Then came feasting and merry-making enough; for the bride's father was, if cautious and careful, a genial, hospitable man, and amends were thus made for the morning's journey through execrable roads."—Chap. viii., pp. 332-4-5.

On page 334 are copies of the signatures in the Marriage Register at ASTBURY of the Bride and Bridegroom,

"Jos. Wedgwood.
Sarah Wedgwood."

and of the witnesses to the marriage—

"Ed. Wedgwood.
John Clark."

and on the next page a woodcut of ASTBURY Church and a portion of the adjoining village.

MISS METEYARD gives her readers most charming glimpses of the subsequent happy home life of Mr. and Mrs. WEDGWOOD—quiet and refined even amid the bustle of the Potteries, and notwithstanding their only partially civilised surroundings. But I must forbear from further quotation.

I believe I am correct in stating that this *Life of Wedgwood*, published some seventeen years ago, has been long out of print.

Mow Cop.

G. H.

Queries.

[1898] A CHESTER CHRISTMAS CHANGED TO LENT.

In a MS. of a date early in the last century I saw a reference to the above. I should like to be informed what it means:—and perhaps between this and NEXT CHRISTMAS some intelligent correspondent will let me know through the medium of the CHESHIRE SHEAF?

Stockport.

MARY O. LATRY.

DECEMBER 20, 1882.

Original Documents.

[1899] VAGRANTS AND VAGABONDS IN
CHESTER IN 1764.

Professional vagrancy has ever been a sore *crux* to our legislators, national and local, as many articles in Vol. I. of THE SHEAF clearly enough prove. It seems, however, that in 1764 the vagabond difficulty had become such a pest, that the CHESTER magistrates aroused themselves from their ordinary lethargy, and determined to do something to if possible stamp out the nuisance. Conference was sought and had with the Clergy and Churchwardens of the various city parishes, and it was agreed all round to assist the Mayor and his brethren in grappling with the offenders. Accordingly his Worship issued the following printed Warrant, a copy of which, recently found in the parish chest of St. OSWALD'S, we are, by the courtesy of Mrs. COGSWELL, enabled to present to our readers:—

"City of Chester, s.a. To the Constables of St. Oswald's Ward, and also to the Church Wardens of the Parish of St. Oswald, and all Constables and other Persons to aid and assist, within the said City.

These are in his Majesty's Name to require and command you to take sufficient Assistants within your Ward, and therein make a General Privy Search this Night, for the finding out and apprehending all Rogues, Vagrants, wandering, idle, and disorderly Persons within the same. And that if any such you shall find, you are to apprehend and bring Him, Her, or Them before Us, or some other of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, for the said City and County of the same, To-morrow, at the Inner-Pentice of the said City, at Eleven o'Clock in the Morning, to be dealt with according to the late Statute, in that case made and provided: And that you be then and there present, to give an Account upon Oath, in what Manner you shall have executed this Warrant. And hereof fail not, as you will answer the Contrary at your Peril. Given under

our Hands and Seals this Sixth Day of July in the Year of our Lord 1754.

Endorsed

EDM. BOLLAND, Mayor.

EDW. GRIFFITH.

Search Warrant
for

Vagabonds, 1754."

The result of this summer's night raid upon the Vagrants and Vagabonds in CHESTER was that great numbers instantly fled the city: those who remained were hauled up before the Bench, and were committed to prison, or promised to take themselves and their belongings off elsewhere; and so for a time the freemen and householders were no longer troubled with the unwelcome burthen.

EDITOR.

[1900] IRISH PRISONERS OF WAR AT CHESTER,
1689.

The following extracts are taken from the "RAWLINSON MSS., A. 306," in the Bodleian Library, where they are described under the title of a—

"Receipt book for payments made by William Jephson, Esq., out of the Secret Service money of WILLIAM III., from 20th Apr., 1689, until the death of the former in June, 1691.

June the 12th, 1689.

Received then of William Jephson, Esq., by mee, George (*) Manwaring, Esqr., Assignee of Wm. STREETE, Esq., Major of Ye City of CHESTER, the sum of two hundred and seven pound fifteen shillings and five pence, w^{ch} was disbursed by the said Major for his Maj'tyes service, viz.:—£44 4s. 6d. for transportation of Souldj'rs to Scotland, and £163 10s. 11d. for maintenance of Irish Prisoners; I say received, in pursuance of his Maj'tyes pleasure herein signified by the Right Hon'ble the Lords' Com'rs of their Maj'tyes Treasury

£207 15s. 5d.

GEORGE MAINWARING.*

23 Ibris, 1689.

Rec'd then of William Jephson, Esq., By mee, S'r JOHN MORGAN, bar't, Governour of CHESTER, the Sum of Five hundred Pounds in p'te of a Bill of One thousand f[our] hundred & [77] pounds, by mee disbursed & expended for the use & service of his Ma'ty in my s'd Govern. to the 29th of September last, 1689, w^{ch} said Bill I have signed. I say rec'd. In pursuance of his Ma'tyes pleasure herein £500 0. 0. signified,

JOHN MORGAN.

The words in brackets have been erased and rewritten, probably to make the amount correspond to the sum mentioned in the last extract.

25 Febr'y, 1690 [1689-90.]

Rec'd then of Wm. Jephson, Esqr., By mee, Wm. Bissell, assignee of S'r JOHN MORGAN, Bar't, the summe of seventy three pound five shillings, viz:—
xxs. in satisfac'ion of the like summe by him p'd to twenty men, a detached p'ty that went to mee the ship that brought the 270 French Prisoners sent

from DUKE SCHOMBERGE, to bring and conduct them to CHESTER; & the summe of seventy two pounds five shillings to reimburse him the like summe hee paid for the subsistence of the said 270 French Prisoners seventeene dayes, commencing the 24th of 8'ber, 1689, and ending 9'o 9'bris foll'g. I say rec'd by me [20 soldiers ls. each for going to Parkgate or Hoylake? to meet the ship],

£73 5s. 0d.

WM. BISSELL.

24'o Mali, 1690.

Rec'd then of Wm. Jephson, Esq., By mee, S'r JOHN MORGAN, Bar't, Governour of CHESTER, the Summe of Five hundred pounds in p'te of £1447, by mee disbursed and expended for the use and service of their Ma'tyes in my said Governm. to the 29th of 7'ber last, according to a Bill signed by myself. I say rec'd in further payment,

£500 0. 0.

JOHN MORGAN."

Lincoln Coll., Oxon.

A. T. BANNISTER.

Notes.

[1901] THE SALUSBURIES OF ERBISTOCK.

In your Note (1768) on the Ravenscroft of Flintshire, you allude to JOHN SALISBURY of ERBISTOCK and he no doubt was both a careful and well-informed Herald: the late Mr. Wynne, of Peniarth, thought him superior to most Welsh heralds; and said "he possessed so many family advantages, on both sides, that he could always refer to old MSS. in the hands of his own relatives, for correction, if he ever met with a difficulty in fixing particular individuals in some special line of descent." His kinsman, OWEN SALISBURY, of RUG, is known to have been very learned in this branch of study, and we also know that the old Lleweli Library was rich in genealogical and heraldic lore; but when Mr. Wynne speaks of "both sides," he must surely mean that he had in his wife's family materials to which he could refer with advantage,—and thus we are landed in the enquiry, whom did he marry? The general impression is that he was a grandson of Lleweli, but how that is made out is not very clear. George Salisbury, of Erbistock, married a Grosvenor of Eaton, and according to some of our Welsh writers John derived from that pair; but, according to other writers, his wife—the Eaton lady—died very young, and was buried at Eccleston. Indeed, we may ask how George came to Erbistock, in the first instance; and next, what family he left behind him at his death to possess that property? One of the Salusburies of Erbistock married a Somersetshire heiress, and went there to reside; and another of them married a kinswoman of his own, who descended from the Llanrwst branch of his family; but the knowing ones say that the Erbistock family sported blue eyes, the Llanrwst ones black eyes, and that the lines were always read by the Welsh after that fashion!

* Note the two ways of spelling the name in same Document. The writing is very distinct and clear.

I opine they got sadly mixed in that particular before very long; although there are people now living who pretend to know the blacks from the blues, and to fix their lines accordingly.

CAMBRENSIS.

Queries.

[1902] THE KING'S SCHOOL, CHESTER.

Have any of your readers noticed the tasteful oriel window on the west front of this handsome SCHOOL? If not, I think it is worthy their attention. From the string-course the root and stem, the leaves and flower, of the English rose are seen to rise, the former twining into the monogram H.R. (Henricus Rex, in allusion to the Royal Founder); while through and around the stem trails the motto of the School, "Rex dedit, benedicat Deus,"—"May God bless what the King gave!" From what classical or sacred author was this appropriate motto taken? Has it ever been used before for a like purpose, and where? I see the ribbon round the straw hat of each scholar is embroidered with the same graceful monogram and motto, the production of a Coventry loom, in the royal colours of blue and gold.

J. WILKINS, B.A.

[1903] LADY FLETCHER.

In the present volume of our revered contemporary, *Notes and Queries* (6th series, vol. v., p. 467), a well-known writer in that periodical, Mr. EDWARD SOLLY, propounds the following Query, which it should be the duty of THE SHEAF's able body of contributors to assist in setting right. It seems to us to present somewhat of a "mix,"—but here it is at length:—

"LADY FLETCHER, 1645.—I should be glad to have any information or references to where particulars are to be found respecting this lady? Sir HENRY FLETCHER, who was created a baronet in 1640, and who lost his life at ROWTON HEATH, Sept. 26, 1645, married Katherine, only daughter of Sir George Dalston. Burke (*Extinct Baronetage*, p. 149) says, 'His widow, who was a lady of great courage and resolution, endured sequestration, incarceration, plunder, &c., from the rebels, with a brave and masculine spirit. She lived, however, to see her daughters married into some of the first families.' Further on, Burke states, p. 202, that Lady Fletcher was married again to THOMAS SMITH, D.D., who was afterwards Bishop of CHESTER. According to *Le Neve*, he was Dean of Chester 1671, Bishop 1684, and died in 1702 at the age of eighty-eight. I am in particular anxious to know when this second marriage took place, and when LADY FLETCHER died?"

EDITOR.

[1904] BERSHAM AND BURASHAM, CO. DENBIGH.

These two Welsh places, not very far from each other in the neighbouring county of Denbigh, seem to me to have some affinity from a philological point of view. Is anything known as to the derivation of the words? they look more like Saxon than Welsh, certainly.

H. S. A.

[1905] THE LLWYD MSS.

"As Padern preacht Godes Haligh Worde
So Pe'da att ye sondie fordd."

If it be correct that the above lines occur in the *Llwyd MSS.*, then, let me ask in your columns, where are those Welsh evidences now preserved? And to what historic circumstance are the words here quoted supposed to point? I notice you have several good Welsh scholars among your contributors,—let them try their hands at unravelling this out-of-the-way knot for Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[1906] HEB DDUW, HEB DDIM, DDUW A DIGON.

Baron MOSTYN of Mostyn, and also the Mostyns of Talaore; the Wynne-Eyttons of Tower, Mold; the Meredyths, baronets, of Greenhills, co. Kildare, Ireland; and the Davieses of Eyton House, Kent, bear the above motto, and thereby own that "without God there is nothing; with God, enough!"

The motto is spelt in various ways, but the above is copied from an old book-plate of a former Baron Mostyn, which is probably correct.

I presume the motto is to the Welsh what "Nil desperandum" is to the English; and shall therefore be glad to have a complete list of the families that bear it, and, if possible, learn which family first used it?

JOHN HEWITT.

[1907] ST. GEORGE'S RACE.

Can any of your readers tell me if any record is kept of the names of the ladies who gave the prizes to the winners of the Race run annually on ST. GEORGE'S DAY during the last century?

Northgate.

E. M. H.

[1908] BODIDRIS.

Are any of your readers acquainted with the history of "BODIDRIS,"—a large house now belonging to Sir WILLIAM GREENVILLE WILLIAMS, Bart., situate in the hills, in a secluded spot near LLANDRUGLA, in the parish of LLANARMON? One-half of the dining-room is in the county of FLINT, the other half in the county of DENBIGH. The outbuildings are very extensive; and there is a tradition that at one time the owner was under an obligation to the reigning Prince always to have ready 100 horses for fighting purposes; and there is certainly, even at the present time, ample accommodation for that number. Who owned the property at

that time,—who was the Prince,—and about what date would it be?

On different portions of the house there are the arms of, I think, the LEYCESTER family—the *Bear and Billet*—well executed in stone. It is situated in the township of BODIDRIS, which takes its name from Idris, son of Llewelyn Aurdorchig, the ancient Lord of Yale. The house formerly belonged to EVAN LLOYD VAUGHAN, of Coraygedol, in right of his mother,—Margaret, daughter of Sir Evan Lloyd, Baronet; whose predecessor derived it, together with the township of Gelligynan, close to, from Prince GRYFFYDD AP MADOC, Lord of Dinas Bran, for his valour in battle. Any information as to this house, which from its peculiar form and internal arrangements is very interesting, will be acceptable.

Mold.

K. (2.)

Replies.

[1909] DANIEL'S ASH, HAWARDEN.

[Vol. i., pp. 4, 12.—May 1, 15, 1878]

It was certainly a plausible suggestion of "T. H.," in the above reference, that DANIEL'S ASH was a corruption of DEINIOL'S ASH, the old church hard by having been originally dedicated to *St. Deiniol*, who according to tradition preached there under the Ash to his early converts. But, *Daniel* or *Deiniol*, I should much like to learn in what way your correspondent connects the ownership of this farm with the ALDERSEY family?

By way of adding another stone to the cairn, I quote the following extract from ST. MARY'S Parish Registers, Chester:—

"Henry Minshull, of Hawarden parish, and Susannah Daniel, married by banns, 23rd September, 1708."

Now, I know, from another reliable source, that the MINSHULLS of Hawarden have continued there, and have farmed the *Daniel's Ash* estate, ever since this marriage celebrated at St. Mary's, Chester, 180 years ago, until quite lately. Unless, therefore, some good evidence to the contrary be forthcoming, I shall be inclined to refer the name to a 16th or 17th century, rather than to so primeval an origin.

A WOODMAN.

[1910] A MARTYR SAVED THROUGH A BROKEN LEG.

[No. 1873.—Novr. 22, 1882.]

There is the best possible authority for the historic fact enquired after by your correspondent. I was only reading the other day a short notice of BERNARD GILPIN, which I found in vol. ii. of Ormerod's *History*

of *Cheshire*; and which, as it answers most of the enquiries made or suggested by Y. O. M., I cannot do better than transfer to your pages. While treating of the 16th century Rectors of THORNTON-LE-MOORS, certainly on the whole a very distinguished succession of pastors, DR. ORMEROD says:—

"BERNARD GILPIN, a name entitled to peculiar reverence, as that of a divine prominent in the Reformation of our Church, and only *not* a Martyr, in the Holy Cause, appears on the Episcopal Registers of CHESTER, as resigning this rectory of THORNTON, in 1553. He was descended from a respectable family, and was nephew of CUTHBERT TONSTALL, Archdeacon of CHESTER from 1515 to 1552, and afterwards Bishop of Durham.

GILPIN, after being educated at Queen's College and Christ Church, Oxford, was collated by his relative to the rectories of Easington and Houghton-le-Spring, and to the Archdeaconry of Durham, presumably on relinquishing the Rectory of THORNTON. In this situation, his principles and activity exposed him to the resentment of the papists, and he was twice screened from a charge of heresy by the interference of his uncle; on which the subject was brought under the notice of [that CHESHIRE fanatic] Bishop BONNER, who is said to have pledged himself that GILPIN should suffer at the stake within a fortnight; but so severe a test was spared him, QUEEN MARY dying while he was on his way to London. An accidental fracture of his leg brought on a delay of a few days, and was the immediate cause of his happy escape from martyrdom!

MR. GILPIN returned to Houghton amidst crowds of his exulting friends and parishioners, which gave his journey the appearance of a triumphal procession; and there he remained firmly fixed, declining the provostship of Queen's College, the Bishopric of Carlisle, and other offers of splendid preferment. His hospitality was unbounded, and his personal exertions in visiting the prisons, and supplying the deficiencies of neglected parishes, obtained him the name of the Northern Apostle."

A great deal more might be said in reference to this distinguished divine, but I have recorded quite enough to answer your correspondent's Query, and to entitle Rector GILPIN of THORNTON to a prominent niche in the Cheshire temple of fame. It is not given to every parish in England to boast of so illustrious an incumbent!

G. T.

[1911] CHESTER AND THE TRUE CROSS.

[Nos. 1774, 1805.—June 7, July 19, 1882.]

On referring to this subject a second time, I think I have found the information that will prove to JUVENIS to be the foundation of "the floating tradition," "that CHESTER once possessed a portion of the true Cross." This I glean from HEMINGWAY'S *History of Chester*, vol. i., p. 138, wherein he gives the translation of a document, "written," as he says, "in Norman-French, upon a square piece of vellum, to which two seals are

appended, much decayed, and now (i.e. 1831) in possession of Mr. THOMAS WALSHMAN, of this city."

"CONCERNING THE CONFIRMATION OF THE HOLY CROSS.—JOHN GOSVENOR, Constable of FRONSSAC, and HENRY VAN EMERIC, Provost of the same place for our very sovereign lord King of England and France, and for the very honored and powerful lord, Mr. THOMAS SWYNBOURNE, Mayor of Bourdeaux, Captain of the said place of FRONSSAC for our said lord the king.—To all those who these present letters shall see or hear,—greeting. Cause it to be known how that praise-worthy man, HENRY CHAMPAIGNE, Esquire, and Burgess of the town of LIBOURNE, a long time before his departure from this world, proposed and devoutly intended to transmit into England to the city of CHESTER, a great shrine of gold, in which there was a piece of the Holy Cross on which OUR SAVIOUR formerly underwent His passion, according as he the said HENRY CHAMPAIGNE said, and was truly informed and was truly informed by honourable people of the Holy Church: who knew and were well acquainted with that relique: which the very reverend Father in God, the good Cardinal de Perigord, kept in his treasury, and caused it to be honoured as a relique of the Cross of OUR SAVIOUR; and so the said HENRY CHAMPAIGNE had a firm faith and devout belief in that relique; and on his departure from this world, he ordered and charged his wife and executors, and his other chief friends, that that relique should be carried to the said City of CHESTER, that it might be placed in the county of that city and he willed, for the love and honour which he bore to the said city, that it should be carried there and presented, and not placed elsewhere, and that the good people should have devotion for it, and remembrance of his soul. The which holy relique was, by the order of his wife and of his executors, and other his friends, transmitted and presented to the aforesaid City of CHESTER, by Naudon de Prey, a burgess and merchant of the town of LIBOURNE. And these things we certify to all to be true, without any doubt, In witness of which truth, and for the greater confirmation of the which things, we, the aforesaid JOHN GOSVENOR and HENRY VAN EMERIC, to these present letters have put our own seals. Given at FRONSSAC, the 6th day of December, in the year of our Lord 1411."

This seems conclusive as to the presentation: as to the relic itself, it would be accepted by the civil or religious authority—the which authority however does not transpire—at CHESTER, and devoutly kept until the more enlightened age advanced, when the "great shrine of gold" would probably secure more regard than its enclosure.

It would add much to the interest of the above, and to your columns, if the original document in its own language secured the attention of its present holder, as it is one of the but very few known to have been executed abroad (and by foreigners) to the honour of CHESTER.

JOHN HEWITT.

[1912] ST. OSWALD'S VICARAGE, CHESTER.

[No. 1874.—Nov. 22, 1882.]

As there was no answer in last week's SHEAF to LUCY D. T.'s question—"Where was the old Vicarage of St. Oswald's?"—I venture to tell her what I know. Perhaps she will remember an old-fashioned house where now stands Messrs. Townshend and Barker's office on St. Werburgh's Mount. There were three or four steps up to the door; and when I was a child it had bright green shutters and door. My grandparents, who would now be more than a hundred years of age were they living, told me that it was the old Vicarage of St. Oswald's Church. I had almost forgotten all about it until I saw the question in THE SHEAF. I then searched Hemingway's *Chester*, and found it was supposed to have been built about the time that St. Nicholas's Church was (which is now our Music Hall), when the parishioners of St. Oswald's consented to give up the south transept of the Cathedral, which had thitherto, as it has almost ever since, been their parish church.

I never heard of a vicarage house to St. Oswald's at or near BRUERA CHURCH, and my family for many generations worshipped there; but on referring to LYSONS' *Cheshire* I find that SAUGHTON Towers was the seat of the Abbots of CHESTER, about the 15th century. It may be to this house that LUCY D. T. refers.

R. M. H.

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